# Why Literalist Islam is False

(And why other forms of Islam are probably false too.)

Shorter Summary: BLAM

(Reasons to not believe that the Quran is the perfect words of a maximally just and wise God—a cumulative case)
All of these alone are strong reasons not to be a literalist Muslim, but jointly they are devastating.

Remember to ask yourself: Is the Quran more likely made by a man or God?
And remember: one error is enough to falsify the hypothesis that God wrote the Quran.

**Preliminary**:
There are thousands of religions worldwide[1] so you have to start with a low probability of Islam being specifically the right one before you even open the book.

Also, the Quran makes thousands of distinct claims. Conjunctions of thousands of claims are less likely than single claims or simple hypotheses.[2] So again this makes Islam low probability before you even start the analysis.

This low prior probability means that the *default* is that Islam is more likely false than true and it needs a bunch of evidence to overcome the low prior probability.

Now let's get into it.

## 1) The Inheritance Problem

There's a mathematical error in the Quran. It directly instructs you to do a mathematical thing that's impossible. (Surah An-Nisa 4:11-12)[3]
If you die and have two daughters, two parents, and a wife, you literally cannot divide up the estate the way the Quran commands.
It's not plausible that God would make a simple math mistake. [4]

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[1] (Wasserman, 2024)
[2] I will say much more on this later.
[3] "If there are only daughters, two or more, for them is **two-thirds** of what he leaves." *66.7 percent*
"And for one's parents, to each one of them is **a sixth** if he left children." *16.7 percent*
"But if you leave a child, then for your wife is **one-eighth** of what you leave." *12.5 percent*
Total = 66.7 + *16.7* + *16.7* + 12.5 = 112.5%

*As an aside, the supposed "Awl fix" is not in the Quran, schools disagree on when/how to apply it, and sequential allocation creates remainders.*

[4] Some say there is an 'Awl fix: But this is never mentioned in the Quran. Why do so many different schools disagree on the correct "fix" to the problem if the solution is so obvious? (Hanbali, Hanafi, Ja'fari, Zahiri, Quranist disagree about awl.) Why does the fix disagree with the text? The creator of the universe could have easily given a more elegant equation, why not give that? It's an ad hoc fix to an obvious problem with the text. Also, if the 'awl hadith tells you to give a different inheritance ratio than the Quran says to, you can dismiss the hadith because the Quran has higher priority.

## Quran's Mathematical Errors in Inheritance

***Example 1:***

**Man dies:**
**Leaves behind wife, two daughters, parents**

| | *Qur'an* | *Sunni solution* | *Shia solution* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wife | 12.5% | 11.1% | 12.5% |
| Two daughters | 66.7% | 59.3% | 54.2% |
| Father | 16.7% | 14.8% | 16.7% |
| Mother | 16.7% | 14.8% | 16.7% |
| Sum | 112.5% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

***Example 2:***

**Woman dies:**
**Leaves behind husband, two sisters**

| | *Qur'an* | *Sunni solution* | *Shia solution* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Husband | 50.0% | 42.9% | 50.0% |
| Two sisters | 66.7% | 57.1% | 50.0% |
| Sum | 116.7% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Inheritance verses: Quran 4:11-12, 4:176

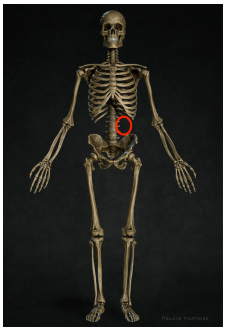
Inheritance problem explained

(The fact that the Shia and Sunni disagree on how to interpret the inheritance verses proves that it's not obvious from the text how you should handle this error.)

Here's what's key: What's more likely? Some guy flubbed the math or that God wanted to give you broken math instructions that needed to be fixed by later inconsistent and fallible oral reports?

## 2) Scientific Errors

- Adam and Eve were the literal first humans, created directly from clay, with all people descending from them (e.g., 55:14, 38:71–72) (*Modern evolutionary biology disproves this.*)
- Stars and/or meteors are lamps and are used to pelt devils — *Surah Al-Mulk 67:5*
- Babies come from an an ejected fluid between the backbone and ribs — *Surah At-Tariq 86:6–7*



If instead you apply the Quranic inheritance shares sequentially, reducing each heir's portion based on what remains after the previous shares are given, you never exceed 100% of the estate. Instead, you're always left with a remainder which also is not correct. Zeno's paradox style. Why didn't the Quran say? "If the math doesn't add up, do your best." That would solve a lot of this.

- The Earth can talk — *Surah Fussilat 41:11 / Az-Zalzalah 99:4*
- Hell can talk. *Surah Qaf 50:30*
- Ants can talk and have complicated human concepts — *Surah An-Naml 27:18–19*
- Mountains are like pegs to stabilize the Earth that's flattened like a bed — *Surah An-Naba 78:6–7 and Surah An-Nahl 16:15*[5]
- Bones form first, then get clothed in muscle (rather than forming in parallel) — *Surah al-Muʾminūn 23:12–14*
- The Sun sets in a muddy spring[6] — *Surah Al-Kahf 18:86 (Sunan Abi Dawud 4002 is a sahih hadith where Muhammad says sun sets in a spring. So probably not a metaphor. Probably what Muhammad believed.)*
- The Quranic flood story (*Surah Hud 11:40–44*) involves rain covering the world. But mixing freshwater rain with saltwater oceans would disrupt salinity levels and kill most marine life. Noah would've needed aquariums to save the fish. Also, how are you gonna fit over a million species on a boat, and how do you explain why basically all the marsupials ended up in Australia?[7]
- The Quran claims Lot's peers are the first gay men. — *Surah Al-A'raf 7:80*
- The Quran lists only four kinds of livestock—sheep, goats, camels, and cattle—and calls them *"eight pairs."* This implies these are the only types God created for human use. But other domesticated species like llamas, alpacas, and reindeer existed long before Islam. Why is the Quran so locally focused? — Surah 6:143–144,

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[5] Mountains don't act like pegs that pin or slow tectonic plates. Plate motion is driven mainly by slab pull, ridge push, and mantle flow. Mountain belts are where plates collide and deform—hence lots of big earthquakes—so they're a result of plate motion, not a brake on it. Collisions can slow a plate because buoyant continental crust resists being subducted, but that's a change in driving forces, not mountains anchoring the crust."

[6]

Wajadahā means "he found it" not "it appeared"
*(The earlier Syriac Alexander legend novel that many academic historians think the Quran gets this story from has the sun enter the window of heaven when in a fetid spring so it's probably not a metaphor.)*
*(Also if it's a metaphor why does he travel to "the setting place of the sun" literally every body of water is a setting place of the sun if you think this is just a matter of reflection.)*

Early tafsirs took sun setting in muddy spring literally
The counter-argument to this "metaphor" reading is **a later harmonization**, and that **earlier exegesis tends to treat it more literally**. The text then lists earlier tafsirs (e.g., al-Mawardi, al-Samarqandi, al-Zamakhshari, plus Tabari in a related article) that gloss the verse in concrete terms—mud/black clay/sludge

Also scholars took it literally.
**Tafsīr al-Jalālayn (15th c., al-Maḥallī & al-Suyūṭī)** — on Q 88:20 (*sutiḥat*):
"As for His words *sutiḥat* ('laid out flat'), **on a literal reading this suggests the earth is flat**—the opinion of most jurists (ahl al-sharʿ)—**and not a sphere** as the astronomers (ahl al-hayʾa) say…." QuranX+2Al-Tafsir+2
**Abū Rashīd al-Naysābūrī (d. 11th c., Muʿtazilī theologian)** — **argues the earth is flat** and gives reasons against sphericity: if it were spherical the sun wouldn't appear to rise/set or vary in height; seas wouldn't "stay put" on a globe; and Q 79:30 (*daḥāhā*) "flattened/spread out" is against roundness. These arguments are preserved and analyzed in Anchassi's JAOS study. Academia
**al-Qurṭubī (d. 1273, Qurʾān commentator)** — in his *Jāmiʿ li-Aḥkām al-Qurʾān* he cites verses like Q 13:3 ("He spread out the earth") and notes **"in this verse is a refutation of those who claim the earth is a sphere."** Anchassi documents and sources this remark in context.

[7] the Qur'an depicts Noah's flood as global because it says everyone else was drowned and only those on the ark were saved (26:119–120; 10:73; 11:40), and because it implies all later humans descend only from Noah (the other believers on the ark left no surviving lineage) via "his progeny—we made them the survivors" (37:75–82, especially 37:77). The traditional tafsir that reads that "survivors" phrasing as exclusive, and if the flood were merely local the ark would be unnecessary since people could just flee to higher ground.

- The Quran describes God having a literal physical throne. — *Surah Ghafir 40:7* (*Why does an immaterial being need a chair*?)
- The Quran describes there being seven skies and earths. — *Surah al-Mulk 67:3/ Surah At-Talaq 65:12*
- The Quran says birds can't fly without God holding them up in the sky, and *only God* is holding them up, and this is evidence of God. — *Surah An-Nahl 16:79, 67:19 (Aerodynamics explains this and isn't very good evidence of God.* )
- [8]The Quran describes lightning praising God. — *Surah Ar-Ra'd 13:13 (Why do humans require years of education to learn to speak and think, but lightning doesn't?)*
- The Quran describes the sky as a roof. That has pieces that can fall. — Surah Al-Anbiya 21:32 / Surah Saba 34:9
- The Quran describes hands and feet as being able to talk and having independent minds. — Surah An-Nur 24:24
- The Quran describes period blood as harmful. *Surah Al-Baqarah 2:222*

- The Earth is described in ways that suggest flatness:
    1. "And the earth – how is it spread out?" "Laid out flat" (سُطِحَتَ *suṭiḥat*) — e.g., Surah Al-Ghashiyah 88:20
    2. "Have We not made the earth a bed?" "Bed" (مِهَاد *mihād*) — e.g., Surah An-Naba 78:6
    3. "And the earth—after that He leveled it out." "Flattened/leveled" (دَحَاها *daḥāhā*) — e.g., Surah An-Nazi'at 79:30
    4. "Who made for you the earth like a cradle?" "Cradle" (مَهْدًا *mahdan*) — e.g., Surah Taha 20:53
    5. "Who made for you the earth like a bed" "Bed" (فِرَاشًا *firāshan*) — e.g., Surah Al-Baqarah 2:22

  These verses strongly imply a flat Earth. Whether false or just misleading, that's a problem for a book claiming perfection.[9] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Near_Eastern_cosmology

  To see how people at the time thought about cosmology.

There's also implausible miracle claims like:

- A mountain was levitated. — *Surah Al-Baqarah 2:63*
- A group of boys slept for 309 years in a cave and woke up unharmed — *Surah Al-Kahf 18:9-18:25*
- Also, some humans got turned into pigs and apes. — *Surah Al-Ma'idah — 5:60, 2:65*
- Solomon having the wind at his beck and call — *(21:81; 34:12; 38:36)*

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[8] I've never heard a philosophy of religion discussion where someone goes BIRDS AMIRITE?

[9]*Also there's some hints that there's a geocentric model in the Quran. – Surah Ya-Sin* 36:38

Another two:
Rivers exist because God wants us to not get lost — *Surah An-Nahl 16:15 (gravity, rainfall, differences in elevation are sufficient to explain why rivers exist*)

There are invisible pillars. — (Surah ar-Ra'd13:2) "It is Allah who erected the heavens without pillars that you [can] see." Which seems to imply invisible pillars.

These are *clearly* the views of an uneducated pre-scientific person.[10]

**3) Many Reliable Hadiths are Comical**

Many literalist Muslims treat the Sahih hadiths—especially those in Bukhari and Muslim—as effectively infallible or nearly so, believing them to be highly reliable and authoritative sources of religious guidance, second only to the Quran

- Dates (the fruit) make you not affected from magic or poison — *Sahih al-Bukhari 5445*
- If a fly lands in your drink, dip it fully because one wing has poison and the other the cure — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3320*
- Whoever orgasms first determines the baby's sex — *Sahih Muslim 315a | Sahih al-Bukhari 3329*
- Adam was ~90 feet tall and humanity has been shrinking since — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3326*
- Trees can talk and are racist — *Sahih Muslim 2922a*
- Drinking camel urine is good medicine — *Sahih al-Bukhari 5686*
- Some rats are transformed Jews and you can tell because they follow kosher diets — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3305*
- Angels avoid houses with dogs — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3322*
- Satan sleeps in your nose and ties your hair into knots when you are sleeping — *Sahih al-Bukhari 1142 / Sahih al-Bukhari 3295*
- Most people in Hell are women and their intelligence is deficient — *Sahih al-Bukhari 304* (Which is funny because most rape and murder is commited by men.)
- Monkeys stone other monkeys for adultery. — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3849*
- Satan farts when the call to prayer happens because he is running away so quickly. - *Sahih al-Bukhari 608*
- Drink sitting down, if you drink while standing then puke it up. — *Sahih Muslim 2026*
- Both of God's hands are right hands — *Sunan an-Nasa'i 5379*
- You should wipe your butt with odd numbers of stones. — *Sahih Muslim 239*
- It's good to kill dogs, especially black dogs which are devils. — *Sahih Muslim 1572 / Sahih Muslim 510a*
- If a wife turns down sex, angels will curse her until morning — *Sahih al-Bukhari* 5193
- Angels hate onions — *Sahih muslim 564a*
- Angels cause thunder — *Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3117*
- Muhammad spit (مَجَّها) on a 5 year old's face — *Sahih bukhari 77*
- You should kill lizards — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3359 / Sahih Muslim 2238* (He blames all lizards for the crimes of some lizards which is racist.)
- There are seven Earths that you can fall into. — *Sahih al-Bukhari 2454*

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[10] Think about how absurd apologist's standards are. Even if the Quran said, *"And We fashioned the mountains—Everest, and K2, and Kilimanjaro, and Fuji—and by Our command* ***every single one*** *of them is smaller than the smallest of the mice that dwell in your houses. And* ***every*** *means* ***literally every****, and it is* ***not hyperbole****. And it is not a metaphor, nor is it permitted to take it as a metaphor; and whoever interprets it as a metaphor has gone astray. This is about literal sizes, not anything spiritual." They would probably find some way to wiggle out. And if they didn't wiggle out is that what they are expecting for an error? That's way too high.*

- Do not eat with your left hand, because Satan eats with his left hand. — *Sahih Muslim 2019* (*If Satan doing stuff means you shouldn't do it, it implies that you shouldn't talk, sleep, run, laugh etc.)*
- Don't lie on your back with feet on top of each other. — *Sahih Muslim 2099e*
- Black seed (Nigella sativa) cures every disease except death — *Sahih al-Bukhari 7:591*
- Don't wipe your butt with camel poop. — *Sahih Muslim 263 (Why does this need to be said?)*[11]
- The Sun prostrates under God's throne after it sets. — *Sahih al-Bukhari 4802*
- Tailbones don't decay. — *Sahih Muslim 2955a*
- Talking wolves exist. — *Musnad Ahmad 11792, Bukhari 3663 and 3471)*
- Pus is better than poetry. — *Sahih al-Bukhari 6154*
- Muslims are at war with all snakes (some of which are jinns). — *Sunan Abu Dawud 5250, Al-Tabarani, Al-Mujam al-Kabir 11946*
- Backgammon is evil. — Sahih Muslim 2260
- A literal rock/stone can steal clothing and run away —*Sahih al-Bukhari 3404*
- If Jews did not exist, meat would not decay — *Sahih al-Bukhari 3399*[12]

If you think these are metaphors, what is drinking camel piss a good metaphor for?

## 4) There are Literal Contradictions

<u>Which was made first, the Earth or the Heavens?</u>

- Option 1 – Earth first: Earth created, then mountains, then heavens — Surah Fussilat 41:9–12 / 2:29

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[11] Muhammad went to the bathroom and didn't wash his hands before eating, and when pressed about this, he said, "What am I going to pray?" — *Sunan Ibn Majah 3261*
Grade: Sahih

Muhammad taking his shirt off and getting kissed on his sides of his body by man. - *Sunan Abi Dawud 5224 (Something many Muslims would reject as appropriate behavior.)yaks*

[12]
These are not Sahih, but are humorous enough to include:

- Don't kill frogs because frogs praise God with every croak — *Abd Allah Ibn Amr Ibn Majah, al-Tabarani, and al-Bayhaqi*
- "The Prophet urinated in a bowl kept under his bed; when a slave girl drank it by mistake, he said, "She has protected herself from Hell with a great wall" — *Al-Khasa'is al-Kubra 2:252, Matba'ah Da'irat al-Ma'arif, Hayder Abad*
- A sheep ate a surah from the Quran and it's lost now. — Sunan Ibn Majah 1944#
- Male urine is from water and female urine is from blood. — *Sunan Ibn Mājah 525*
- You'll get a flying horse made out of rubies in heaven. — Al-Tabarani, Al-Mu'jam al-Kabir 4075

- Option 2 – Heavens first: Heavens built, then Earth spread — Surah An-Nazi'at 79:27–30
  → Both can't be true.[13]

And more importantly when, relative to the heavens, were the mountains and earthly provisions made?
Surah 41:9–12 answers: *mountains & sustenance first, then heavens.*
Surah 79:27–33 answers: *heavens first, then mountains & water/sustenance.*

For Muslims reading this: If heaven was already built, raised, and had night and day, and only *after that* the earth was made and spread with mountains and sustenance, how could heaven still be "smoke" when it was later made into seven heavens?

<u>Is Hell Proportionate to your Crime?</u>

- Option 1 – Proportional Punishment: "Whoever does an evil deed will not be recompensed except with the like thereof..." — Surah Ghafir 40:40
- Option 2 – Infinite Torture: "Abiding eternally therein. The punishment will not be lightened for them, nor will they be reprieved." — Surah Al-Baqarah 2:162, 2:39, 2:81, 2:217; Al-Imran 3:88; Al-Jinn 72:23
  → Both can't be true.

<u>Do Good People of the Book go to Heaven?</u>

- Option 1 – Yes: "Those who believe (in the Quran), and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians and the Sabians,- any who believe in Allah and the Last Day, and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve." — Surah Al-Baqarah 2:62
- Option 2 – No: "Whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted by him and in the Hereafter they will be among the losers" — Surah Al-Imran 3:85
  → Both can't be true.[14]

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[13] Muslim apologists sometimes say there's no contradiction because 79:30–33 is only talking about a later "spreading" or furnishing of the earth, not its original creation, so the sequence is: earth (created) → heavens → earth (spread). But 79:30–33's details ("spreading" the earth, bringing out its water and pasture, fixing the mountains) line up exactly with 41:10's description of God placing mountains and determining sustenance *before* turning to the heavens in 41:11. In other words, both passages describe the same "furnishing" phase of the earth, yet 41 puts that phase **before** the heavens are made, while 79 puts it **after**—they're not two different stages, they're the same stage with reversed order.

79:30–33 = spreading the earth + water + pasture + mountains + provision **after** the heaven work.
41:10 = mountains + sustenance **before** turning to heaven in 41:11.

Fussilat 41:9–12 uses ثُمَّ (thumma). Then
An-Nāziʿāt 79:27–33 uses بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ (baʿda dhālika) after that

[14] `Tension also: (5:48) If Allah had willed, He would have made you one community, but His Will is to test you with what He has given ´each of` you. So compete with one another in doing good. To Allah you will all return, then He will inform you ´of the truth` regarding your differences.

How Long is God's Day?

- Option 1 – A day with Allah equals 1,000 years: "then it all ascends to Him on a Day whose length is a thousand years by your counting." — Surah as-Sajdah 32:5 Also, "And indeed, a day with your Lord is like a thousand years of those which you count." Surah Al-Hajj 22:47
- Option 2 – A day with Allah equals 50,000 years: "The angels and the Spirit ascend to Him in a day whose measure is fifty thousand years." — Surah Al-Ma'arij 70:4
  → Both cannot be true.

How Long Did Creation Take?

- Option 1 – Six Days: "Indeed, your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and the earth in six days…" — Surah Al-A'raf 7:54, Surah Yunus 10:3, Surah Hud 11:7, Surah Al-Furqan 25:59
- Option 2 – Eight Days Total (when adding the steps): "He who created the earth in two days… then placed on it firmly set mountains above it and blessed it and determined therein its [creatures'] sustenance in four days… Then He directed Himself to the heaven… and He completed them as seven heavens in two days…" — Surah Fussilat 41:9–12
  → 2 days (earth) + 4 days (mountains & sustenance) + 2 days (heavens) = 8 days total
  → Both cannot be literally true.

(It's also weird that heavens which are quadrillions of times bigger than earth took way less time.) (Why does omnipotent being take multiple days to do anything.)[15]

Does Allah Forgive Shirk (Idolatry)?

- Option 1 – Allah never forgives shirk: "God does not forgive the sin of considering others equal to Him, but He may choose to forgive other sins. — Surah An-Nisa 4:48
- Option 2 – Allah forgave the Israelites for worshipping the golden calf (a form of shirk): "And ˹remember˺ when We appointed forty nights for Moses, then you worshipped the calf in his absence, acting wrongfully. Then We forgave you after that so perhaps you would be grateful. — Surah Al-Baqarah 2:52

→ Both cannot be true: If Allah "never forgives shirk," it's unclear how He forgave calf-worship, which is the textbook case of shirk.

Also, it's not clear how Christians can get to heaven given they do shirk.

Also, in 39:53 the Quran says, "*Allah certainly forgives all sins.*"
How can he never forgive shirk if he forgives all sins?

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[15] https://www.answering-islam.org/Quran/Contra/index.html There are more contradictions if you are curious.

Is There Compulsion in Religion?

- Option 1 - No Compulsion “There shall be no compulsion in religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong.” — Surah Al-Baqarah 2:256
- Option 2 - Compulsion Allowed / Commanded “Fight those who do not believe in Allah or in the Last Day and who do not consider unlawful what Allah and His Messenger have made unlawful and who do not adopt the religion of truth from those who were given the Scripture — [fight] until they give the jizyah willingly while they are humbled.” — Surah At-Tawbah 9:29

  → Either there is no compulsion, or people are to be fought until they accept Islam or submit under it. Both can’t be true.

Individual vs. Collective Justice

- Option 1 – Individual accountability only: "No soul shall bear the burden of another" — Surah 6:164, 35:18, 39:7, 53:38
- Option 2 – Collective destruction: The People of Thamud destroyed by earthquake — Surah 7:73-79

  → Did every infant in Thamud reject the prophet?

Are All Prophets Equal or Are Some Preferred?

- Option 1 – No Distinction: “We make no distinction between any of His messengers.” — Surah Al-Baqarah 2:285
- Option 2 – Some Preferred:“We have chosen some of those messengers above others; among them are those to whom Allah spoke, and He raised some in degrees.” — Surah Al-Baqarah 2:253

  → Both can’t be literally true. Either no distinction exists between any messengers, or some are chosen above others

What Were Humans Made From?

- Option 1 – Water:
  “We made from water every living thing.” — Surah Al-Anbiya 21:30
- Option 2 – Dust:
  “He created him from dust.” — Surah Al-Imran 3:59, Surah Ar-Rum 30:20
  → Which is it? Dust or Water? And wasn’t Eve made from a rib not water? (Sahih al-Bukhari 3331

And aren't djinn made from fire? (55:15) Doesn't that contradict *every living thing* being made of water?

Were Warners Sent to the Arabs/Meccans Before Muhammad?

Option 1 – Yes, the Arabs/Meccans already had warners

A. Ishmael is a prophet who enjoins prayer and charity on his people, and is listed among those given "the Book and prophethood." (6:84–89; 19:54–55)
B. Abraham and Ishmael build the Kaaba in Arabia. (2:125–129)
C. Hūd and Ṣāliḥ are sent to ʿĀd and Thamūd, both portrayed as Arabian tribes. (7:65, 7:73, etc.)

Option 2 – No, Muhammad's people had no previous warner or book

A. "…to warn a people to whom no warner had come before (qablika) you…" (28:46; 32:3)
B. "…that you may warn a people whose fathers were never warned…" (36:2–6)
C. "We had not given them any Books… nor sent to them before you any warner." (34:44)

→ Either the Meccans/Arabs already had earlier warners, or no warner/book came to them before Muhammad. The Quran affirms both.

There's also *free will* and *abrogation* and *mercy* and *clarity* and *name* contradictions which I will talk about later in the document. There are also more listed in links in my footnotes.[16][17]

You might say, "You're just misinterpreting the verses. Scholars have answers for all of this." Yes, and Hindu, Mormon, and Christian scholars all have answers for their texts too. The question isn't whether apologetics exist—it's whether they're persuasive and plausible.

**5) A Perfect Book Wouldn't be this Ambiguous**

"*These are the verses of the clear Book.*" *(26:2)*
*"These are the verses of the Quran; the clear Book." (27:1)*
*"These are the verses of the clear Book." (28:2)*

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[16] Iblis is contradictorily treated as an angel and a jinn.

[17] Skeptics annotated Quran" has documented literally hundreds of contradictions listed. Only one is needed to falsify literalist islam.
https://www.skepticsannotatedbible.com/all/contra_list.html

*"He is the One Who sends down clear revelations to His servant to bring you out of darkness and into light." (57:9)*
*"This is a Book whose verses are well perfected and then fully explained." (11:1)*
*"We have sent down to you the Book as clarification for all things and as guidance."(16:89)*

There should be no ambiguity on whether beating your wife or aggressive holy war are allowed.

Scholars have spent centuries debating what many verses mean without reaching consensus. If even the scholarly and faithful can't agree after centuries of debate, it could have been written more clearly. And if it could have been written more clearly, it's not perfect. And if it's not clear it contradicts the many verses saying it's clear.

Sometimes the Quran says "*God is light*" (Surah An-Nur 24:35), sometimes that "*the Earth talked*" (Surah Fussilat 41:11). There's no clear note about whether these are metaphorical or literal. It would have been *trivial* to clear up such ambiguities. How can a literally perfect book not be clear?

If there is a miscommunication between two people, the fault is on *both people* unless the speaker is maximally clear or the listener was maximally perceptive. It would have been easy to make the Quran clearer so it isn't maximally clear. So it's not perfect.

Also, major Islamic schools (e.g., Hanafi vs. Hanbali) do not agree how to handle unmentioned things. Which is a pretty big deal! Something that could have easily been cleared up by a single line.

And then there are the disconnected letters—"Alif Lam Meem," etc.—that begin many surahs. No one knows what they mean. Why would you fill your perfect book, your clear book with uninterpretable letters?

The Quran also says that some verses are unclear: Quran (3:7) "some verses are precise… while others are ambiguous." This contradicts all the verses quoted at the start of this section. Which is *another* logical contradiction.

(Some causes of the ambiguity: Vowel choices in the Quran come from oral recitation tradition and juristic preference, not the parchment itself. Early Quranic parchments have the consonantal skeleton (*rasm*) without short vowels or full diacritics. Single roots carry several dictionary senses; context sometimes leaves more than one viable. The Quran often uses ellipsis, metaphor and hyperbole for effect, again widening interpretive space. Classical Arabic had no commas or quotation marks, so whether a clause is relative, conditional, or parenthetical is partly inferred by the reader.)

Ambiguity is an all-pervasive specter that haunts the claim of perfection of the Quran.

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### Summary Table

| Topic | Level of Disagreement | Common Positions |
|---|---|---|
| Modesty | High | Face veil required vs optional; extent of awrah |
| Jihad | High | Spiritual struggle vs armed struggle vs terrorism |
| Free Will | Very High | Determinism (Ash'ari) vs Free Will (Mu'tazila, Shi'a) |
| Music | High | Haram vs Halal vs Contextual |
| Flat Earth | Low but real | Round earth majority; Flat earth fringe |
| Wife Striking | High | Literal, symbolic, metaphorical, or rejected |

## 6) Obviously

You obviously shouldn't believe a guy who tells you that God said he's allowed to have more wives than you.[18] [19]

So many cult leaders in history have claimed that God says he gets to have more wives than other men. Don't be gullible.

## 7) Petty Vindictiveness

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[18] Aisha says I feel that your Lord hastens in fulfilling your wishes and desires. Sahih al-Bukhari 4788 It's interesting that the hadiths mention this cutting remark because it's very telling.

[19] Surah Al-Ahzab 33:50 Says Also allowed for marriage is a believing woman who offers herself to the Prophet if he is interested in marrying her—´this is` exclusively for you, not for the rest of the believers" He also doesn't have to pay dowries that other Muslims have to pay. *God seems to really love giving Muhammad extra perks*.

- **Ordinary Muslim:** Max 4 wives (Qur'an 4:3)
- **Muhammad:** Unlimited wives (Qur'an 33:50, had more than 9)
- **Ordinary Muslim:** Must give a dowry (*mahr*) to marry (33:50)
- **Muhammad:** Can accept a woman without dowry if she volunteers herself (Qur'an 33:50)
- **Ordinary Muslim:** Wives can remarry if widowed/divorced
- **Muhammad:** His widows forbidden to remarry after his death (Qur'an 33:53

Roughly 10 percent of verses in the Quran insult or threaten non-believers.[20] I am not making that up. 10 percent. They're called fools, blind, arrogant, or are told they'll burn in hell. Oh, you would think a perfectly wise and intelligent being is going to spend 10 percent of his holy text, his last testament to man, talking shit to the haters?[21]

*Why not persuade the unbelievers rather than threaten and insult them?*

- Surah 2:171 – "Deaf, dumb, and blind—so they do not understand."
- Surah 7:179 / Surah 25:44– "They are like cattle—rather, they are more astray."
- Surah 2:13 – "Indeed, it is they who are the fools, but they do not know."
- Surah 9:28 – "Indeed the polytheists are unclean (najis)."
- Surah 2:10 – "In their hearts is a disease, so Allah increased their disease."
- Surah 4:56 – "We will roast them in the Fire, and every time their skins are burned, We will replace them so they may taste the punishment."
- Surah 22:19-20 – "Boiling water will be poured over their heads, melting their insides and their skins."
- Surah 7:175–176 – "His likeness is that of a dog"
- Surah 40:71-72 – "When the shackles are on their necks and the chains, they will be dragged. In boiling water they will be dragged, then into the Fire they will be seared."
- Surah Ibrahim 14:16 "Awaiting them is Hell, and they will be left to drink oozing pus."
- Or things as tiny as, "The *arrogant* said, "We surely reject what you believe in." Surah 7:76

**8) Abrogation**

According to most Muslim scholars, later verses cancel earlier ones. **Why would God not plan out his verses better so that you didn't need a principle of abrogation***?*

Just sit with that for a minute.

And if abrogations are needed because of different circumstances during Muhammads life, why not have more abrogations for different circumstances after Muhamamds life?

But it gets worse than that because here is just a direct contradiction:

1. Surah Qaf 50:29 says, "My Word cannot be changed."
2. Surah Al-Baqarah 2:106 says, "If We ever abrogate a verse or cause it to be forgotten, We replace it with a *better* or similar one."

*How can both of these both be true?*

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[20] There is of course debate about what counts as a threat or insult. I am being very inclusive about even minor references to the arrogance of non-believers as insults. I used AIs to come to this figure.

[21] https://www.skepticsannotatedbible.com/all/int_list.html

The Quran talks a lot about believers, unbelievers, and hypocrites. There are hundreds of different kinds of people. Maybe give advice on more shades of belief and loyalty and self-deception? It's too simplistic.

Also, importantly, if God's behaviors are perfect, how can any action be better than perfection? If God is perfect and makes the perfect decision to give a verse, how could a better verse be created?

Just think about what scholars are saying: the Quran was dynamically changing in the 20ish years of Muhammad's preaching, but no dynamic changes were needed in the roughly 1400 years since Muhammad's life? When all sorts of technological/cultural/political developments were happening.
|=|==========|
Pink represents Muhammad's time preaching where we needed dynamic advice.
Blue represents all the time since Muhammad, where we have needed no dynamic advice.

Also it's not obvious which verses are later and which are earlier given that the Quran is not in chronological order. So the method used to determine which verses abrogate which other ones is error prone.[22][23]

**9) Missing Guidance**

The Quran has three different verses on alcohol. But it has nothing on artificial intelligence, cloning, nuclear war, social media, germs/washing hands before surgery, environmental damage/climate change, vaccines, teleportation, transhumanism, aliens, mind uploading, robots, bioweapons, or exploring other planets.

Why is liquor more important than those? Why would God not want to give us ethical and prudential advice on issues more complicated and consequential than liquor?

Why give *three verses* on alcohol, but none on these?

**10) Why Not Trivially Prove Itself From God**

*"There has come to you conclusive evidence from your Lord."(4:174)*

God could have proven divine authorship easily.
God could have listed the next 10,000 visible-from-Earth supernovas with their exact dates and coordinates. Why didn't God do something that would make it obvious that the Quran is not made by a human? **The Quran contains no information a human at that time couldn't have known or guessed which is super suspicious**.[24] Like even just including an accurate

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[22] Something that's sad is that many traditional scholars think the violent verses abrogate the peaceful ones.

[23] Examples of claimed abrogations:
https://chatgpt.com/share/68126c73-039c-8006-a2b5-40e3fea0ff4d

[24]
Response to claims of math patterns in Quran: https://users.cecs.anu.edu.au/~bdm/dilugim/moby.html
Claims about "miraculous" mathematical patterns in the Qur'an fall apart once you notice how unconstrained the game is. Apologists constantly change how they count (roots vs. word forms, orthography, attached particles, which meanings to include) until the numbers come out "right," and they only ever report the hits, not the misses. The

description of Australia or South America would have been eyebrow raising. Or mentioning dinosaurs or kangaroos.[25]

Imagine it said:
*"The Earth is a sphere rotating around a star, surrounded by vacuum, with gravity holding oceans in place, and the stars are distant suns, most older than humanity, some already dead — and you are seeing their light from the past."* That would make me believe. But instead of saying that it talks about stars as lamps to pelt devils with.

And wouldn't God want us protected from charlatans? So he'd be expected to give us evidence that his prophet isn't a charlatan.

Nowhere in the Quran does it even hint that God is purposely making things obscure for theological reasons. In fact, the Quran says a lot that Allah is obvious and there are lots of signs and miracles he gives you so it will be obvious.

The Quran says, "He makes the signs clear so that you may be certain of the meeting with your Lord." (Ar-R'ad 13:2)

Yet he didn't make it certain when he trivially could have.

**11) Occam's Razor**

Occam's razor is brutal to religious texts. To believe the Quran is divine, you have to jointly accept thousands of distinct claims. (Any of which could be wrong.) It's a really complicated hypothesis. Just think about probability: A and B and C and D all happening is going to be less likely than just A happening.

Here is an intuition pump: suppose each verse has a 99.9 percent chance of being true:

- Multiplying .999 times itself 6236 times 0.00194
- Multiplying .9999 times itself 6236 times is 0.5357

Analogously, even if each item in the phone book has an extremely high probability of being correct when you have thousands of items in the phonebook it becomes likely that there's a mistake somewhere.

Now, suppose you doubt this above iterated multiplication procedure, you should still accept

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patterns almost always depend on one specific late edition and vanish or change with other perfectly valid readings or scripts, and many famous examples are just factually wrong when you recount them with consistent rules. On top of that, the same numerology tricks have produced "miracles" in the Bible and even novels, so the phenomenon looks like cherry-picking and data-mining in big texts, not evidence for Islam in particular https://slatestarcodex.com/2016/11/05/the-pyramid-and-the-garden/

[25] *More miracle predictions fails in the Quran: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pWXS6TbzS0LQS4hg1nzgI_B1AI-2ILqDN4y265HLNVE/edit?usp=sharing*

that the more complicated the hypothesis, the lower the prior probability. For example, it's obvious that "God exists" is, a priori, more likely than "God exists and is named Bob and likes playing bananagrams on Thursdays and likes the smell of goose eggs and likes vacationing in Cuba."

And ignoring all these subtle points about parsimony and probability, what's more likely without any other info? A guy made up a story, or God wrote this specific book with these thousands of claims and there are no errors in it? [26][27]

**12) Splitting the Moon**

The Quran says Muhammad split the moon, but no one outside Arabia noticed this? No one in China or Byzantium wrote this down?[28]

**13) Fitna**

There were two civil wars immediately after Muhammad's death. (Ridda Wars/Fitna) If Muhammad truly gave divine guidance, why did it immediately lead to bloodshed? I'd sort of expect peace and love and prosperity to be the result of divine revelation.

(I also wouldn't expect the Islamic slave trade and the conquest of Byzantium and the Sassanids. Nor would I expect the general poverty in Islamic countries today.)

**14) Dhul-Qarnayn**

This character in the Quran Dhul-Qarnayn matches Alexander the Great myths that were floating around Arabia at the time (e.g., the Syriac Alexander Legend). If the Dhul-Qarnayn story were the real history of Alexander, you'd expect it to match earlier, more accurate Alexander writings. But it in fact aligns with later fantastical Alexander stories. When have legends gotten more accurate over time?

A version of Alexander romance called the Greek α-recension mentions Alexander building bronze gates between mountains to enclose twenty-two nations, including Gog and Magog. This is 400 years before the Quran so it couldn't have come *from* the Quran. Why is the Quran seemingly copying literal fables?[29]

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[26] Larger chatgpt explanation: https://chatgpt.com/share/68126908-4750-8006-9682-e5548df28ec3
Extra thoughts:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dwEMNubRa-f74VsLfPPN-DSEcUHrkIrnKbMALpMEe20/edit?usp=sharing
https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/simplicity/

[27] Allah has 99 attributes and that is also a complicated hypothesis.

[28] The *Chakrawati Farmas* tale is not independent corroboration of the moon-splitting. It appears only in Muslim sources written centuries after Muhammad's time, with no mention in 7th-century Indian inscriptions, chronicles, or non-Muslim records. Historians view it as a later legend, likely invented to give the early arrival of Islam in Kerala a miraculous backstory, not as a genuine eyewitness account.

Also, why didn't everyone convert on the spot? It says they said, "Oh it's the same old magic." Is that a believable thing they would say? You don't think they'd be in awe? Lol

[29] A similar point can be made about the Quran having details matching the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas* which is a known forgery.

**15) Gog and Magog?**
The Quranic passages containing Dhul-Qarnayn claim Gog and Magog and their people are blocked behind a wall between two mountains until the end of time. Where are they? Why haven't we found them? You think humans would have found a giant gate between mountains enclosing an army.[30][31]

**16) Don't Show Up Early For Dinner**
Do you really think a perfect, infinitely intelligent timeless God would take up valuable space in his final holy book to say, "Hey, don't show up early to Muhammad's house for dinner because he's shy?" (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:53)[32][33]

Isn't believing this kind of ridiculous? Don't you think that within the limited space of the Quran, there was a more important point to make than that??

**17) Hell**
There is a strong tension between these two verses:

- "We will cast them into the Fire. Whenever their skin is burnt completely, We will replace it so they will ˹constantly˺ taste the punishment."[34] (Surah An-Nisa 4:56)

and

- "Do not lose hope in Allah's mercy, for Allah certainly forgives all sins. He is indeed the All-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Surah Az-Zumar 39:53)

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Or how the story of the sleepers in Quran matches the Christian Seven Sleepers of Ephesus a Christian folk legend.

[30] The Quran (89:6–7) also describes ʿĀd as building *Iram, the city of lofty pillars*—a grand, columned metropolis. But no trace of such architecture exists in Arabia. Archaeology finds only small nomadic sites, not lost stone cities. The description doesn't match real ancient Arabian culture—it matches legend.

[31] Some say Dhul-Qarnayn is Cyrus the Great not Alexander, but that doesn't help. The historical details of Cyrus don't line up with the Dhul-Qarnayn story either.

[32] The Quran also says in that same verse, don't marry Muhammad's wives after he dies. Also, this kind of self serving.

[33] Quran: 33:30 Here's another self serving passage "O wives of the Prophet! If any of you were to commit a blatant misconduct, the punishment would be doubled for her. And that is easy for Allah. Why is God spending time specifically regulating the behavior of his wives. And why is he saying it's easy to do it? OBVIOUSLY IT WOULD EASILY FOR GOD TO DO THAT WHY DOES THAT NEED TO BE SAID?"

[34] *Abiding eternally therein. The punishment will not be lightened for them, nor will they be reprieved." — Surah Al-Baqarah 2:39*

Why would the most merciful being torture someone like this for an eternity? Like you are saying after a quadrillion years of torture they haven't had enough? They need another quadrillion years? And this is merciful? People who say this are just not imagining what a quadrillion years of torture actually is.

It's just childish to call someone who tortures someone for quadrillions of years a merciful being.[35]

**18) Djinn**

The Quran says there are literal genies (Surah Al-Hijr 15:27). This is not something we see any evidence of. If genies are real, why do other cultures not independently believe creatures made of smokeless fire?

The Quran's claim isn't just "spirits exist," it's that there is a literal race of beings made of smokeless fire. If that were real, we'd expect consistent cross-cultural confirmation of "fire beings."[36]

**19) The Quran Gives a Falsifiability Test—and Fails It**

"And if you are in doubt… produce a surah like it…" (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:23)
Shortest surah is:

*"We have granted you al-Kawthar. So pray and sacrifice. Indeed, your enemy is the one cut off."*

This is not some unbeatable literary miracle. It's not hard to write something more profound. Compare it to:

*"What is success? To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate the beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch Or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!" - Emerson*

Or compare it to this fake Surah I invented.

Surah al-Falaḥ (The Flourishing)

*Verily, do not murder, for life is sacred in the sight of the Most High.*
*Do not steal, for the provision of your Lord is sufficient for those who walk upright.*

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[35] Like here's a better idea of hell. When you die you experience all the pain you ever directly caused and then after all that. God says, Okay, you learned your lesson. Want to give it another chance on Earth or do you want to rejoin with me or live in heaven?
[36] Buraqs, aka winged horses, also don't exist.

*Do not rape, for the body is a trust, and to violate it is a crime before the heavens.*
*Do not torture, for your Lord is the Most Merciful, and loves not the oppressors.*
*Do not enslave for freedom is beloved in the mind of Most Righteous.*
*Do not lie, for falsehood is the path of ruin, and truth is the light upon the straight path.*
*And love your fellow man, and strive to bring flourishing to the earth,*
*For your Lord made you stewards, not tyrants, and blessed are those who sow peace and righteousness.*[37]

حقًّا، لا تقتل، فإنّ الحياة مُقدَّسةٌ في نظر العليّ.
ولا تسرق، فإنّ رزقَ ربّك كافٍ للذين يسيرون بالاستقامة.
ولا تغتصب، فإنّ الجسدَ أمانةٌ، وانتهاكَه جريمةٌ أمام السماوات.
ولا تعذّب، فإنّ ربّك هو الأرحم، ولا يحبّ الظالمين.
ولا تستعبد، فإنّ الحريّةَ محبوبةٌ في عقلِ الأبرّ.
ولا تكذب، فإنّ الكذبَ طريقُ الهلاك، والحقُّ نورٌ على الصراط المستقيم.
وأحبِبْ أخاك الإنسان، واسعَ إلى إحياءِ الأرض وازدهارِها،
فإنّ ربّك جعلكم خُلَفاء لا طغاة، وطوبى لِمَن يزرعون السلامَ والبرَّ.

But at the end of the day, evaluating which text is 'better' is a subjective, non-truth-apt exercise. If the Quran stakes its truth on that kind of test, the test is ill-posed—and that, by itself, makes Allah look kinda dumb.

Like imagine someone said, "You know this arugula is from God because it's super yummy and you couldn't make something as yummy." People have different aesthetic preferences so that would be a stupid test. Not everyone likes arugula. [38]

## 20) The Satanic Verses Incident

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[37] *If you want it to match the 27+ criteria from Hamza Andreas Tzortzis*
*https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FHCbtz1sE0HetYdx8-QPwhXGL2Ae3Mm0-I2o2MlxXTc/edit?usp=sharing*
Muhammad also sometimes described revelations as sounding like a bell which can be a symptom of schizophrenia.

[38] And if you make it empirical and it becomes a testable bet: even state-of-the-art AIs won't produce passages that native, devout Arabic readers can't distinguish from the Quran. That's an implausible bet today given how good AIs are at imitating text styles.

So:
*If by like it you mean morally: then banning slavery is morally superior*
*If by like it you mean aesthetically, well that's entirely subjective.*
*If by like it, you just mean looks similar then LLMs already can make things that convincingly look similar.*

Early Islamic sources (al-Tabari, Ibn Ishaq) record Muhammad delivering verses praising pagan gods (Allāt, Al-Uzza, and Manāt) — then retracting the verses claiming they were Satanic deception.
If Satan could trick Muhammad once, why assume he didn't succeed more often? It proves that Muhammad is fallible, and can't always tell what is from God and what is not from God.

I know some modern Muslims want to deny this event happened, but earlier Muslims thought it happened, and *why would you know better than them*?

**21) Why Does God Switch from First to Third Person?**

- "Indeed, **I** am Allah. There is no deity except **Me**, so worship **Me** and establish prayer for **My** remembrance." (Surah Ta-Ha 20:14)
- "And Allah invites to the Home of Peace and guides whom **He** wills to a straight path." (Surah Yunus 10:25)
- "It is Allah who created the heavens and the earth and whatever is between them in six days; then **He** established Himself above the Throne." (Surah Al-Furqan 25:59)

If the Quran is supposed to be God's direct speech, why does it sometimes refer to God in the third person, as if someone else is talking about Him? Why does the voice shift between "I" and "He"? Wouldn't you expect a message from God Himself to have a consistent voice throughout? Why does it sometimes sound like Muhammad is talking about God?

It says in the first chapter, "Thee alone do we worship and Thee alone do we implore for help." If this is God's words, is God saying he worships himself?

**22) Why does God's style change?**

Stylometry also somewhat hurts the "divine author" claim. When you run the Quran through authorship analysis, it splits cleanly into Meccan and Medinan styles—different tone, vocabulary, and rhythm.[39] That's exactly what you see when a single human's writing evolves over time, but not what you'd expect from a perfectly consistent, outside-of-time voice.

**23) Hadiths are an Unreliable Method**

In Islam, many Muslims say the hadiths are necessary for interpreting the Quran. Why is God using an unreliable method—a game of Chinese whispers—to give you mandatory information for how to practice the faith? If it's mandatory for the faith, why not just put it

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[39]
- Meccan: Poetic, emotional, warning-focused (e.g., hellfire, apocalypse).
- Medinan: Legal, instructional, focused on law and community rules.
- Meccan: Abstract and cosmic—fire, sky, resurrection.
- Medinan: Legal and social—jihad, tax, contracts, Muhammad.
- Meccan: Short, rhymed, punchy verses.
- Medinan: Longer, more prose-like, less rhythmic.

into the Quran itself?

If God wanted to guide people clearly and unambiguously, why not stick to a single, safeguarded text? Why allow a bunch of opaque oral reports to become central to the religion, despite obvious risks of error and confusion.[40]

If hadith scholars who graded the reliability of hadiths are fallible, the whole system based on this is fallible.

**24) Inside View vs Outside View**

From the inside view, your religion might feel incredibly compelling—emotionally resonant, logically sound, or simply self-evident. This personal perspective provides powerful subjective evidence.

But from the outside view, however, billions throughout history have felt equally certain about other rival contradictory beliefs. Religious adherents cannot all be correct despite similar confidence levels.

Just as a startup founder must balance internal optimism with the reality that 70% of startups fail, religious believers should weigh their personal confidence against the broader pattern of billions of religious people being wrong despite their similar certainty through history.

Humans are very capable of **incorrectly, confidently** thinking they have sacred text from God. And *you know humans are like this*. You could be the kind of person that mistakenly thinks your holy text is right given that you know people do this all the time.

Humans — the species you belong to — have the capacity to be completely certain about the divine perfection of a text while being wrong, and to remain wrong for life, even in the face of counterarguments that seem obvious to outsiders.

You might be inside the same condition right now, because, by definition, if you were, you wouldn't know it.

**25) Imagine Planet Sized Brains**

You can imagine beings with planet sized brains being so vast and parallel that they can hold hundreds of thousands of separate chains of reasoning at once, each one as detailed and deep as a human's whole mental life.

And then imagine us with a Quran trying to give them advice — maybe sharing what we think are profound insights.

And those creatures being like: "Oh, yes, thank you for your wisdom… (cross-referencing it against 47,382 relevant sub-thoughts, processing it from 12,067 ethical frameworks, simulating a billion futures where that advice matters…"

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[40] And Muslims admit a chain of oral reports are error prone because they have a spectrum of reliability that they assign to hadiths.

You think they would find the Quran particularly useful?

Like actually think about what you are saying when you say an infinitely intelligent entity wrote this book.

If someone told me a sword was from heaven, I would look at it and if it just looked like a normal sword I would not believe it was from heaven. But if the weapon had a 1000 buttons and could turn people into trees and could reverse gravity, I'd say oh yes this weapon might be from heaven. The Quran looks too mundane to be from heaven.

**26) Morally Problematic Teachings**

- The Quran permits wife-beating as a final step to discipline disobedient wives. *(Surah An-Nisa 4:34)*[41]
- The Quran permits sex with female slaves—without their consent or marriage. *(Surah Al-Mu'minun 23:5–6; An-Nisa 4:24; Al-Ahzab 33:50)*[42]
- The Quran prescribes cutting off the hands of thieves. *(Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:38)*
- The Quran recommends crucifixion and cutting off hands and feet on opposite sides for rebels. *(Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:33)*
- The Quran commands Muslims to kill polytheists wherever they find them. *(Surah At-Tawbah 9:5) (Why not include a sunset clause if this is temporary. If you know this will be misunderstood why write it this way?)*
- The Quran says a woman's testimony is worth half a man's. *(Surah Al-Baqarah 2:282)*
- The Quran allows marriage and divorce of girls who haven't yet menstruated. *(Surah At-Talaq 65:4)*[43]
  The Quran says, *"*Persecution is far worse than killing*." (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:217) (Most people would rather be persecuted than murdered.* And the verse is saying Muslims are allowed to kill because *"*hindering others from the Path of Allah, and rejecting Allah*"* is just cause to kill.)
- The Quran endorses a story where a boy is killed—**not** for anything he did, but because he would have sinned in the future. *(Surah Al-Kahf 18:80)*
- *The Quran says and I quote, "Fight those who do not believe in Allah and the Last Day, nor comply with what Allah and His Messenger have forbidden, nor embrace the religion of truth from among those who were given the Scripture, until they pay the tax, willingly submitting, fully humbled." (Surah At-Tawbaw 9:29)*
- The Quran shames people for being bastards *(Surah Al-Qalam 68:13)*

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[41] *Iḍribūhunna* in classical tafsir iḍribūhunna means beating: **1. Tafsir al-Tabari (d. 923 CE) 2. Tafsir al-Qurtubi (d. 1273 CE) 3. Tafsir Ibn Kathir (d. 1373 CE) 4. Tafsir al-Jalalayn (15th century)**

[42] *(There are also parables mentioning slavery where slavery is not condemned.)*

[43] **Bottom line:** In **classical** Sunni tafsīr (Jalālayn, Qurṭubī, Ṭabarī, Ibn Kathīr, etc.), **"those who have not menstruated"** in **Q 65:4** is read as **pre-menarche (prepubescent) females**, with a **three-month ʿiddah** if divorced **after** consummation. Modern alternative readings exist, but they are **not** the classical mainstream

- The Quran compares women to farmland (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:223)
- The Quran says heaven will have servants in it. “And they will be waited on in heaven by their youthful servants.” (52:24)
- The Quran says, “So fight in the cause of —and motivate the believers to fight**,** so that Allah may restrain the might of the disbelievers.” **(**4:84**)**

*Even the “nice” lines can collapse into cruelty*
The Quran’s famous kind slogan — *“Whoever kills a soul, it is as if he killed all mankind”* (5:32) — is immediately followed by 5:33 prescribing crucifixion and maiming. The book seemingly can’t even let its most quoted “peaceful” verse breathe without pivoting straight back to brutality.

**Hadiths**:

- Gay men should be executed. *(Sunan Abu Dawud 4462; Al-Tirmidhi 1456)*
- People who commit suicide will be tortured in Hell. *(Sahih al-Bukhari 5778)*
- Apostates from Islam should be killed. *(Sahih al-Bukhari 6922; Sahih Muslim 1676; Sahih al-Bukhari 6878; Sunan Ibn Majah 2535 )*[44] (It’s debatable that if you kill someone for leaving your group you are a cult not a religion or community. And killing people for changing their mind, incentivizes stupidity.)
- Muhammad came close to burning down the houses of some guys who skipped congregational prayer. (Sahih al-Bukhari 644)
- A newborn baby goes to hell. (Sunan Abi Dawud 4717) How does it square with this 52:21 “Every person will reap only what they sowed.”
- Slaves can be flogged (Sahih al-Bukhari 5204)

In the Islamic jurisprudential tradition, people could be born into slavery if both parents were slaves.

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[44] …although, debatably the Quran does too, see 4:89: “But if they turn away, then seize them and kill them wherever you find them, and do not take any of them as allies or helpers.”
§

Sort of surprising God would endorse or recommend things so vicious.

Also, **obviously** any sacred text that doesn't explicitly ban slavery is not plausibly from God.

## 27) Muhammad's Character isn't Plausibly Divinely Guided

He had sex with a 9-year-old (*Aisha*), owned a sex slave (*Maria the Copt*), married a woman right after killing her husband (*Safiyya bint Huyayy*)[45], initiated aggressive military actions (*Khaybar*[46]), owned slaves (*Sahih Muslim 115*), and traded two black slaves for one Arab slave (Sahih Muslim 1602a). He stopped visiting his second wife because she was too old and visited Aisha instead (*Saudah bint Zamʿah*).[47] He tongue kissed a young boy (*Hakim 4791 and Mufrad 1183*).[48] Muhammad said to a girl she shouldn't have freed her slavegirl and that she should have given the slavegirl to her uncle. (*Sahih al-Bukhari 2592*) He married his step-daughter and arguably ended the practice of adoption merely so he could do that. (Zaynab) He declared the person who *stabbed to death* a woman, who disparaged him, shouldn't be punished. (*Sunan Abi Dawud 4361*) There are reports of him ordering the death of mere poets who criticized him.

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[45] There's a tension in Muhammad's character—between the man who gathers firewood to avoid special treatment, and the man who marries the most desirable captive because, well, he's the Prophet. In one story, his companions go to collect firewood. Muhammad insists on joining. They protest, but he replies, in effect, "God doesn't like those who seek distinction." Then there's Safiyya. Her tribe defeated, her husband killed, she's taken captive. One companion,, asks for her. Another intervenes, because she's the daughter of a chief. "Only the Prophet is worthy of her." Muhammad agrees. Sahih Muslim 1365c So what happened to "no special treatment"?

[46] Muhammad attacked or led expeditions against the following places: Mecca, Badr, Uhud, Khaybar, Ta'if, Hunayn, Tabuk, Dumat al-Jandal, Wadi al-Qura, and Fadak. He also targeted the Jewish tribes of Banu Qaynuqa, Banu Nadir, and Banu Qurayza in and around Medina

[47] Saudah bint Zamʿah (sawdah) feared Muhammad might divorce her because she had grown old and unattractive, so she gave up her conjugal night to ʿĀ'isha to remain his wife. While Muhammad didn't initiate a divorce, her fear suggests his preferences made aging wives feel insecure.
Why bad? **Breach of Trust and Commitment**: Marriage is often seen as a covenant based on mutual trust, commitment, and support, not solely on physical attractiveness. Abandoning a spouse for aging can be seen as a betrayal of these vows.**Objectification**: Reducing a person's worth to their physical appearance, especially as they age naturally, is often viewed as objectifying them rather than valuing them as a whole individual with evolving qualities and shared history. **Lack of Reciprocity**: In many societies, wives historically played a significant role in maintaining the home and raising children, often sacrificing their own personal or professional aspirations. To then be discarded when their physical prime fades can be seen as a profound lack of reciprocity and gratitude.**Vulnerability of the Older Spouse**: Older individuals, particularly women who might have had limited economic opportunities, can be left in vulnerable financial and social positions if abandoned by a spouse in their later years.
"Tafsir of Quran 4:128 by Ibn Kathir or "Hadith like Sahih al-Bukhari 5212 / Sahih Muslim 1463a "
Cite that Muhammad wanted the divorce of Sawdah: Nuzhat al-Majālis wa Muntakhab an-Nafā'is فلما كبر سنها **أراد أن يطلقها** فقالت يا رسول الله لا تطلقني وأنت في حل من شأني فإني أريد أن أحشر في أزواجك وقد وهبت يومي لعائشة
"When she grew old, **he wanted to divorce her**, so she said: 'O Messenger of Allah, do not divorce me; you are free regarding my share. I only want to be resurrected among your wives, and I have given my day to ʿĀ'ishah.'"
Good cites: Sunan Abi Dawud 2135 / Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3040

[48] Endorsed by major scholars: Al-Ḥākim, Al-Dhahabī, Al-Albānī

Muhammad's sexlife apologist be like "He married widows", and like, yeah he made them widows. Not just safiyya but Juwayriya too

(Fartana/Abū ʿAfak)[49] Muhammad attacked the Quraysh caravan at Nakhlah during the sacred month of Rajab, which shattered the pan-Arab taboo against warfare in a holy month. (*It's nice to have a time of the year when no war happens.*) Muhammad endorsed the execution of all pubescent males of the Banu Qurayza tribe and the enslavement of the women and children. Finally, Muhammad didn't set up a stable succession system which led to awful turmoil. [50] [51] [52]

This should be really simple:
Sex with a 9-year-old? Evil.
Sex slavery? Evil.
Marrying a woman whose family you killed? Evil.

God would not select an evil person to be his guide for how to live.

**28) Why Ordered That Way?**
The ordering of the surahs in the Quran is irrational from both a thematic and chronological perspective. Rather than following a sensible sequence—such as grouping by topic, placing revelations in historical order, or building a coherent narrative—the chapters are mostly arranged by length, with longer surahs first and shorter ones later. This results in abrupt shifts in topic, tone, and context, making it difficult to follow any overarching argument or progression. For a book claimed to be perfectly revealed by a maximally wise deity, the lack of clear structure is puzzling.[53]

As Thomas Carlyle said, "*A wearisome confused jumble.*"

**29) A Scribe Caught Muhammad Copying Him**
"*If Muhammad is truthful then I receive the revelation as much as he does.*" - ʿAbdullah ibn Saʿd[54]

One of Muhammad's scribes, ʿAbdullah ibn Saʿd, left Islam after realizing Muhammad repeated *his phrasings* of verses as revelation (*Ibn Ishaq, Sirat Rasul Allah; al-Tabari, Tarikh al-Rusul wa al-Muluk*). In at least one case, after the scribe added a flourish like "So blessed be

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[49] And there are other historical accounts of Muhammad ordering death for mockery or criticism (Kaʿb ibn al-Ashraf/ Fartana/Asma' bint Marwan/Al-Nadr ibn al-Harith/ Abū ʿAfak).

[50] Her crimes: شتم (shatama) is cursing, reviling, calling someone vile names
وقع في فلان. (waqaʿa fī fulān) is "to speak against someone," i.e., back-bite, malign, or defame.
"Her blood may be shed with impunity." is a standard reading of ألاَ اشْهَدُوا أَنَّ دَمَهَا هَدَرٌ )ʾ(ʾalā-ish-hadū ʾanna damahā hadar)
[51] Muhammad also laughs when Umar tells a story about slapping his step daughter hafsa for asking for money.Sahih Muslim (Book 18, Hadith 39
[52] *Jarīr ibn ʿAbd al-Ḥamīd narrated, from Qābūs, from his father, from Ibn ʿAbbās: that the Messenger of Allah* ﷺ *"spread al-Ḥasan's thighs apart and kissed his* ***zabība-tahu****."* Qābūs added: *"The ḥadīth is ḥasan (fair in authenticity)."*

[53] *As an aside, there are extant Qurans with different Surah orders. (See: Mus'haf of Ali Codex and Ubayy ibn Ka'b's Codex)*

[54] Tafsir *Anwar al-Tanzil wa Asrar al-Ta'wil* by `Abdallah Ibn Umar al-Baidawi (**Tafsir al-Baydawi**, is one of the most highly regarded and widely studied classical Sunni Qur'anic commentaries in Islamic history)

Allah, the best of creators!", Muhammad reportedly agreed and said it should be part of the verse.
ʿAbdullah ibn Saʿd thought: "Wait, this isn't divine, I said that—he's just going with whatever sounds good." He also messed around with word orderings to see if Muhammad would notice. Muhammad didn't notice.

He left, told people, and Muhammad ordered him killed and he was only pardoned because he was family with one of Muhammad's close companions, Uthman.

This is one of the most damning pieces of historical evidence that Muhammad wasn't divinely guided.

### 30) The Injustice of Geography

Why did Arabs get this blessing of divine knowledge? Why didn't God send a Muhammad type prophet to the Cambodians, Nigerians, Dutch, and Apache? Why did they have to wait hundreds of years to receive God's blessing of the Quran? Isn't that unfair? This fact of the Quran showing up once in Arabia makes total sense if Muhammad made up the book. It makes less sense if God wanted to give all of humanity his divine instruction.

Also, most people stay in the religion they're raised in. Yet under traditional Islam, salvation depends on accepting Islam—meaning a Hindu child in India is, by many interpretations, far more likely to go to hell than a Muslim born in Arabia, simply due to birthplace. If eternal torment depends on such chance, Islam starts to look less like justice and more like a cosmic lottery (with *infinite pain* as a consequence) rigged by geography.[55]

### 31) Miscellaneous Errors

**2:6** – "Indeed, those who disbelieve — it is all the same whether you warn them or do not warn them — they will not believe."
→ False. Some disbelievers do respond to warnings. This is an overgeneralization. If it's just saying "stubborn people are stubborn," then it's redundant, there's no reason to bring it up. [56]

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[55] Pew Research Center, The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010–2050 (2015), 22: "Globally, Muslims retain 98% of childhood adherents, Hindus 97%, Christians 90%, Buddhists 85%, and the religiously unaffiliated 70%." Source

[56] Also ask yourself, Why am I able to come up with so many different arguments against literalist Islam from so many different angles? 190ish

Surah At-Tahrim 66:5
"*Perhaps, if he were to divorce you ˹all˺, his Lord would replace you with better wives*"

**2:120** – "The Jews and Christians will never be pleased with you until you follow their religion."
→ False. Jews don't try to convert people in general; it's not a proselytizing faith. Historically, many Jews and Christians have admired Muhammad or respected Muslims without requiring conversion.

**107:1–2** – "Have you seen the one who denies the final Judgment? That is the one who repulses the orphan."
→ False. Not all who deny judgment repulse orphans. Many atheists and agnostics care for them and are loved.

**2:2** – "This is the Book about which there is no doubt…"
→ False. People do doubt it; atheists and others openly reject it.

**5:67** – "And Allah will protect you from the people."
→ False. Muhammad was wounded in battle and poisoned, and Umar prevented him from saying something to keep Muslims from going astray.

**54:40** "And We have certainly made the Quran easy to remember."
→ False. Memorizing the Quran is not easy.

**54:11** "We opened the gates of the sky with pouring rain."
→ False. Sky gates don't exist. (Reflects ancient near-East mythical cosmology. The Bible has the "waters above.")[57]

**63:6** – "Allah does not guide the rebellious people."
→ Contradiction. 76:30 says "You do not will except that Allah wills." If all willing is God's, rebellion too must be His will. Also contradiction with, 61:5 "So when they ˹persistently˺ deviated, Allah caused their hearts to deviate."[58]

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→ Why is the Lord saying perhaps? God is omniscient. Why is God being coy?

**18:5**"They say nothing but lies"
→ False. Exaggeration

**21:104** – "On that Day We will roll up the sky like a scroll of writings."
→ False. You cannot roll up the sky—it's made of air and space, with nothing physical to roll.

[57] **"**Those of you who ˹sinfully˺ divorce their wives by comparing them to their mothers ˹should know that˺ their wives are in no way their mothers. None can be their mothers except those who gave birth to them." Why is Muhammad telling people who their moms are when they know already? 58:2

"Surely Satan's party is bound to lose." Therefore Muslims can just sit around doing nothing.

Who is ˹rightly˺ guided: the one who crawls facedown or the one who walks upright on the Straight Path?.... What does posture have to do with moral righteousness

[58] **27:23** – "She (Queen of Sheba) has been given all things…"
→ Overgeneralization. No one has literally "all things."

**54:48** Taste the touch of Hell!
→ Error : You feel touches and taste flavors. You don't taste tactile experiences.

**30:4** "Yet following their defeat, they will triumph within three to nine years."
→ Bizarre. God predicts something will happen in a range of years? Why is an omniscient person not getting it exactly right?

**51:23** "˹All˺ this [heaven] is certainly as true as ˹the fact that˺ you can speak!"
→ Error: In fact your speaking is more certain than heaven.

**52:44** "If they were to see a ˹deadly˺ piece of the sky fall down ˹upon them˺, still they would say, "˹This is just˺ a pile of clouds.""
→ Error: That's not what most people would say. WHO WOULD SAY THAT?

**54:50 "**Our command is but a single word, done in the blink of an eye."
→ Contradiction: Then how did heavens and earth take multiple days to make?

**58:10** Secret talks are only inspired by Satan
→ Error: Surprise birthday parties are probably not from Satan.

**86:16** "But I too am planning"
→ How does an omniscient being outside time plan anything?

**98:6** "Indeed, those who disbelieve from the People of the Book and the polytheists will be in the Fire of Hell, to stay there forever. They are the worst of ˹all˺ beings. Indeed, those who believe and do good—they are the best of ˹all˺ beings."
→ Contradiction: Satan is the worst being in Islam. God is the best being in Islam. Not the disbeliever and believer.

**59:1** "Whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth glorifies Allah"
→ So like a child's head getting kicked in? [59]

**2:262** Those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allah…will not grieve.
→ Even if you are charitable there are times when you will grieve.

Why is God's book full of technical errors? God can't speak profoundly without saying technically false things?

## 32) Commands Consequentialist Harm

Islam teaches that an individual suffering leads to their greater eternal reward[60]. But at the same time, God commands you to relieve others' suffering. That means God is commanding you to intervene in ways that reduce someone's eternal benefit. You're expected to help, even when helping will reduce the quality of someone's infinite reward. You are commanded to lower people's eternal reward.

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**61:8** – "Allah will certainly perfect His light."
→ Implies His light is not yet perfect, so God is not perfect

[59] the Quran strangely says in 16:67 that intoxicants are a sign of Allah then later bans them and says they are Satan's handiwork.

[60] (Tirmidhi, Hadith 2396), (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:155–157), (Sahih Bukhari Volume 7, Book 70, Hadith 545)

Islam if you really believe the theology, teaches that helping someone is on net hurting them.

**33) Smartest People**

*"He makes the signs clear so that you may be certain of the meeting with your Lord." (Ar-R'ad 13:2)*

All of these people knew about Islam and WERE NOT PERSUADED.

Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton, Carl Friedrich Gauss, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Bertrand Russell, Kurt Gödel, John von Neumann, Richard Feynman, Stephen Hawking, Roger Penrose, Noam Chomsky, Charles Darwin, Francis Crick, Blaise Pascal, Baruch Spinoza, Alan Turing, Terence Tao, Saul Kripke, Willard Van Orman Quine, Karl Popper, Ed Witten, Carl Sagan, Marvin Minsky, Alexander Grothendieck, Daniel Kahneman, James Clerk Maxwell, Leonhard Euler, Derek Parfit, John Stuart Mill, E.O. Wilson, William James, Douglas Hofstadter, Emile Durkheim, Nikola Tesla, Michael Faraday, Erwin Schrödinger, Hilary Putnam, Alfred Tarski, Max Planck, Carl Jung, Viktor Frankl, Ramanujan, Amartya Sen, Chen-Ning Yang, Abu Bakr Al-Razi, Al-Maʿarri, Ibn al-Rawandi.

These were among the most curious, reflective minds in history — and not one of them was persuaded by Islam.[61]

This isn't an argument from authority which says, an expert says it therefore it's definitely true. It's evidence. This counts as evidence in a Bayesian sense because evidence is anything that makes a hypothesis more or less likely. If Islam were true, you'd expect highly intelligent people—those with the best tools for evaluating arguments and spotting contradictions—to be more likely to recognize that truth. So this pattern of belief distribution shifts the probability against Islam being true. It's not decisive on its own, but it's real, non-negligible evidence.

Just imagine what Muslims would say if every smartest person upon reading the Quran converted immediately. Would they neglect to mention this fact? They wouldn't.

The way that evidence works is that if Muslims *would count it as evidence* if all the smartest people in the world immediately converted upon being exposed, then it does count as *some* evidence against them that they don't.[62] If finding an egg in my room is evidence that a duck lives in my room, then me not finding an egg is *some* evidence that there isn't a duck living in my room.

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[61] Compare that to the smartest Muslims: Avicenna, Alhazen, Al-Khwarizmi, Averroes, Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, Ibn Khaldun, Al-Farabi, Ibn-Arabi, Abd al-Laṭīf al-Baghdādī, and Mulla Sadra

Which while an impressive list, is less impressive. And they all grew up in it! They weren't independently persuaded by the evidence. They were raised in it. It's way more impressive if Islam persuades people not inculcated from childhood.

[62] (This follows from the law of likelihood.)

The elites converge on round Earth, old Earth, evolution, and heliocentrism. Why don't they converge on this?

The smartest aren't convinced by Islam and yet the Quran says Allah gives clear signs.

The philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer says, "Consider the Koran, for example; this wretched book was sufficient to start a world-religion, to satisfy the metaphysical needs of countless millions for twelve hundred years, to become the basis of their morality and of a remarkable contempt for death, and also to inspire them to bloody wars and the most extensive conquests. In this book we find the saddest and poorest form of theism … I have not been able to discover in it one single idea of value." He's a great philosopher and sees no ideas of value in it.

And notice the asymmetry: none of the greatest Western minds converted to Islam, but some of the greatest Arab and Persian minds — al-Razi, al-Maʿarri, Ibn al-Rawandi — actually abandoned it. That's telling. Islam didn't merely fail to attract the brightest outsiders; it even lost some of its brightest insiders.

**34**) **Western Islamic Experts Are Also Not Persuaded**
Most of the leading Western specialists on early Islamic history, Quran manuscripts, 7th-century Arabia, and Quranic studies are non-Muslim and—despite spending their careers in this material—did not convert to Islam. This "expert non-convergence" is evidence against the truth of Islam's central claims: the people best positioned to be persuaded by the earliest texts, manuscripts, languages, and contexts typically are not.

Examples of such scholars:

- **Quran manuscripts & codicology:** François Déroche; Behnam Sadeghi; Asma Hilali; Alba Fedeli; Michael Marx; Alain George.
- **Early Islamic history / historiography:** Patricia Crone; Michael Cook; Robert G. Hoyland; Fred M. Donner; Harald Motzki; Gerald Hawting; Chase F. Robinson; Sean W. Anthony; Stephen J. Shoemaker; Gregor Schoeler.
- **Quran in Late Antique / intertextual context:** Gabriel Said Reynolds; Angelika Neuwirth; Nicolai Sinai; Sidney H. Griffith; Guillaume Dye.
- **Arabic linguistics & epigraphy (crucial for early Quranic Arabic):** Marijn van Putten; Ahmad Al-Jallad.

Across these subfields, the most common result among top Western experts is sustained non-belief and non-conversion, even after deep, first-hand engagement with the primary evidence.

And remember the Quran says, *"He makes the signs clear so that you may be certain of the meeting with your Lord." (Ar-R'ad 13:2)*

**35) Elephant Army**

Surah Al-Fil 105 describes an entire elephant army getting wrecked by birds dropping pebbles. You expect me to believe armored men and literal war elephants got shredded by flying birds dropping clay pellets? Which, by the way, have a low terminal velocity. Dropping a penny off of the Empire State Building won't kill people, that's a myth.[63][64]

Why would God only make birds do stuff like this before cameras and videos were invented?

**36) Free Will?**

- "*You will not will unless Allah wills.*" (Surah At-Takwir 81:29)
  → This verse strongly suggests a form of divine determinism: human will itself is contingent on God's will. You literally cannot choose unless God chooses that you choose.

- "*Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.*"[65] (Surah Ar-Ra'd 13:11)
  → This verse implies the opposite: that people must take the initiative to change, and then Allah will respond. That presupposes that people can change by their own will.

These two verses seem fundamentally incompatible. Either humans have autonomous willpower that can bring about change, or their will is wholly subject to God's will.

And if the Quran's stance on free will is clear and coherent, why have Muslims theologians and philosophers debated this for centuries?

**37) The "Perfect Preservation" Problem**

Quran 15:9 says: *"We have sent down the Reminder, and surely We will guard it."* Literalists take this to mean every letter of the Quran has been miraculously preserved. But the historical record tells a different story:

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[63] Terminal velocity of a penny is low: A penny reaches a top speed of about 30–50 mph (48–80 km/h) due to air resistance. It's too light to gain lethal momentum.

[64] Even if each bird was an eagle and carried a 1 kg clay stone (super generous — most birds couldn't lift that), and dropped it from 20,000 feet (also super generous), it would land (when accounting for terminal velocity) with 1000-1250 joules — roughly the force of a Francis Ngannou's punch ≈ 1,200 J. Enough to hurt or kill an unarmored man? Absolutely. Enough to shred an elephant army and reduce them to "chewed-up straw"? No.

[65] Also in 76:30 But you cannot will ˹to do so˺ unless Allah wills. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

- Surah An-Nur 24:33

*"Do not force your ˹slave˺ girls into prostitution for your own worldly gains while they wish to remain chaste. And if someone coerces them, then after such a coercion Allah is certainly All-Forgiving, Most Merciful ˹to them˺."*. A merciful God wouldn't let the girl get raped in the first place. Forgiveness after the fact isn't the behavior of the most merciful.

- **Early disagreements among companions:** Ibn Masʿūd's codex omitted Surahs 1, 113, and 114. Ubayy's codex contained two extra prayers. Abū Mūsā's codex had other unique readings. All of this is documented by early Muslim scholars like Ibn Abī Dāwūd.
- **State-enforced standardization:** Caliph ʿUthmān ordered rival codices burned (Bukhārī 4987). If God miraculously preserved every letter, why would a political purge be necessary?
- **Manuscript evidence:** The 7th-century Ṣanʿāʾ palimpsest preserves pre-ʿUthmānic readings, showing differences in words, grammar, and verse divisions (e.g., Q 2:196: "amāntum" vs. "amin(tum)").
- **Built-in variation:** Muhammad himself allowed multiple wordings via the "seven aḥruf," and the ten canonical qirāʾāt preserve those differences—e.g., Q 1:4 has "malik" (King) vs. "mālik" (Owner). In Q 2:184, Ḥafṣ says to feed *one* poor person per missed day of fasting; Warsh says to feed *poor people* (plural) per day—changing the obligation from 30 to 60+ people for a missed month.[66]
- Today, Muslims recite different canonical readings—Ḥafṣ ʿan ʿĀṣim, Warsh ʿan Nāfiʿ, Qālūn ʿan Nāfiʿ, al-Dūrī ʿan Abī ʿAmr, Hishām ʿan Ibn ʿĀmir—each of these have slight differences in wording and meaning. **Which one did Muhammad actually hear from Gabriel?** Or was God repeating himself?

This isn't an exact, frozen, perfectly preserved text.

Why would god waste time repeating himself in multiple dialects of Arabic but not reveal in multiple other human languages like English and Japanese? What's more likely that multiple slightly different variants of the Quran were later given theological justification by scholars[67] or that God repeats himself a bunch to Muhammad and has the goal to give multiple subtly different Arabic Qurans but no Qurans in other languages?

It's extremely hard to prove that the Quran we have is exactly the same (word for word, letter for letter) as the one that Muhammad laid down. And literalist Islam rests on this.

**38) Why a Book?**

Why have a bunch of revelations that are written in a book? Why not indestructible obelisks, or give an orb that gives fine tuned advice to anyone who touches it, or something else that

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[66] **Ḥafṣ ʿan ʿĀṣim** reads: **ṭaʿāmu miskīn** — feeding **one poor person** per missed day.
**Warsh ʿan Nāfiʿ** reads: **ṭaʿāmu masākīn** — feeding **poor people** (plural) per missed day

[67] *Abū Bakr Aḥmad ibn Mūsā ibn al-ʿAbbās Ibn Mujāhid al-ʿAṭashī*, 859/860 – 936) was an Islamic scholar most notable for establishing and delineating the seven canonical Quranic readings (*qira'at*) in his work *Kitāb al-sabʿa fī l-qirāʾāt*.

Work by Shady Hekmat Nasser argues that earlier scholars did not uniformly treat every later-canonical variant as equally "revelation"; the stance hardens over time into "every canonical variant is divinely revealed."

would make it *obvious* that a guy didn't just make stuff up?[68]

### 39) Why Does It Look So Parochial?

Heaven in Quran is not like optional bodies, mind melding, a large variety of totally new emotions, memory transfers, parallel universe creation, multiple time dimensions, extra spatial dimensions. No, it is gardens with attractive ladies, carpets, fancy jewelery and chairs. Why does it look like the imagination of a 7th century human? [69][70]

If the Quran came from an all-powerful, all-knowing being, why do Allah's actions feel so primitive? Earthquakes, lightning bolts, droughts, and diseases—punishments that sound like the arsenal of a mythic desert warlord sorcerer, not a cosmic intelligence beyond time.
Why not something more elegant? Allah can blink beings out of existence; he doesn't need proxies like lightning and earthquakes.[71] This is what you'd expect from the imagination of 7th-century humans.

It's also striking that God's morality isn't the savage brutality of cavemen, nor the enlightened values of modern people, nor the unimaginable ethics of some far-future or alien society. Out of the full spectrum of possibilities, it ends up looking only slightly more refined than the norms of 7th-century Arabia. If divine morality could have been anything, the fact that it mirrors the moral intuitions (e.g. slavery) of Muhammad's own time and place is awfully suspicious. It's way better explained by people writing down their norms.

Or to put it another way, if God could have revealed any morality out of a trillion possibilities, why does scripture's morality land so close to the cultural norms of its time? That's what you'd expect from human authors. Imagine drawing numbers from a hat: if your friends could only

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[68] And if you are gonna make it a book you could make it glow in the dark or regenerate if burned or levitate, that way you know it's not just a guy making stuff up.

[69] Imagine talking to a caveman about utopia. The caveman might be like, "I can imagine utopia—we'd have way pointier sticks." And I'd want to say to the cavemen. "No you don't get it. We don't even *need* pointy sticks. We've completely moved beyond hunting animals with pointy sticks. The future is way more weird and wondrous than you are imagining."

Now when thinking about our own future, don't be like the caveman. Don't think about pointier sticks.

We might not even have bodies in the future. We might have entirely new emotions. We might be able to decide what personality to have for the day. We might never die. We might create virtual worlds to live out hundreds of possible lives. We might be able to download memories and temporarily fuse our minds with other people.

If we play our cards right, the future could be far better and far weirder than most people usually imagine.

[70] Like look at what Greg Egan or Douglas Hofstadter has to say about consciousness or identity. Why isn't the Quran more like that? For example here's a quote, "Imagine a universe entirely without structure, without shape, without connections. A cloud of microscopic events, like fragments of space-time… except that there is no space or time. What characterizes one point in space, for one instant? Just the values of the fundamental particle fields, just a handful of numbers. Now, take away all notions of position, arrangement, order, and what's left? A cloud of random numbers." - Greg Egan Why is nothing in the Quran like that.

[71] To bring someone back to life he doesn't need to slap stuff with pieces of beef. Which happens in 2nd Surah.

write down 1–10, and God could write down 1–1,000,000,000,000, and the number drawn from the hat is "4," it's overwhelmingly more likely you chose your friend's number not God's.

**40) Problem of Animal Suffering**

There's so much pain happening to innocent animals in the world. Why is a merciful God permitting this? There have been like septillions of animals that have ever lived and most of them had a painful death. The classic problem of evil is a problem for theists, and if theism is false, literalist Islam is false.[72] [73]

**41) Problem of Divine Hiddenness**

God either wants us to know him or not. *If not, he wouldn't give us the Quran*. If yes, he would have made it more obvious. (He could write stuff in the stars.) If he doesn't want it obvious, why do miracles?[74] The classic problem of divine hiddenness is a problem for theists and if theism is false, literalist Islam is false.

Remember, the Quran says, "He makes the signs clear so that you may be certain of the meeting with your Lord." (Ar-R'ad 13:2)

Then he hides himself.

**42) I Checked**

Quran 10:94 says, "*If you are in doubt about that We have revealed to you, then ask those who read the Scripture before you*." When I ask Christians and Jews they don't affirm what the Quran is asking me to check with them. [75]

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[72] Also why does God not just make only good hearted people and put them straight into heaven? This whole test thing is absurd.

[73] If God was perfect, you'd expect what he makes to be perfect.

[74] If you think God hides so we will seek him, I think it's plausibly more beautiful to have a relationship with God than to merely seek a relationship with God.

[75] And it's not like the Quran thinks the earlier scriptures are completely corrupted. Ibn Ḥazm of Córdoba (994–1064) was the idea who made popular the idea of a corrupted text, earlier Muslims generally thought the books were misinterpreted rather than changed.

In Surah 5:48, it says God gave each group their own scripture *"as a test"* so they could *"compete with one another in good works."* How exactly would that plan work if the Torah and Gospels are totally corrupted?# Also if the texts are corrupted, why does the Quran have: *"Say [to Jews and Christians], 'We believe in what has been revealed to us and what was revealed to you. Our God and your God is One.'"* (Quran 29:46) # Also, how does corruption work if 50:29 of the Quran says, "My Word cannot be changed."

The famous hasan hadith (Sunan Abi Dawud 4449) where Muhammad places the Torah on a cushion and says "I believe in you and in the One who revealed you" only sharpens the problem: if the Quran was talking about some lost, "original uncorrupted Injil" and a vanished Torah, why does Muhammad publicly affirm the very Jewish scripture in front of him as something he believes in and uses as a legal authority?

### 43) Music

Many literalist traditional Muslims think Islam teaches that music is forbidden.[76] It's not plausible God would give Beethoven and Coltrane and Hendrix such gifts and not want them to express their genius.

Music is one of the jewels of humanity. Opposing is like opposing friendship, smiling, kindness, or fun.

### 44) Narcissism

Why the heck would God want and demand praise? Do you care if ants praise you?

### 45) Why Did God Cause Mass Extinctions?

Why would God cause the Permian and Cretaceous mass extinctions? Killing a whole planet worth of life twice? Isn't this kind of a wasteful method for an all powerful God to make humans?

### 46) Alcohol And Slavery

Why does the Quran clearly and explicitly ban usury and alcohol and ham but is unclear on child marriage and slavery?[77] [78]

Millions of Muslims have thought slavery was okay, but they didn't think alcohol was okay. Why would God not make it way, way clearer? If you are going to make alcohol and ham clear, why not make slavery clear?

Isn't slavery way more important?

### 47) It's Boring and Repetitive

The Quran obsessively repeats the same threats of the same vague praises of Allah's greatness, the same stock phrases ("He is the Most Merciful, the Most Wise")—over and over. And over. And over.

It's hard to exaggerate just how much it repeats over and over that the unbelievers will burn. It just never stops.

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[76] Sahih al-Bukhari 5590

[77] Why not explicitly ban holy offensive war or torture?

[78] Queen Balthild (also spelled Bathilda, c. 626–680 AD), the wife of King Clovis II of Neustria and Burgundy. She was a former Anglo-Saxon slave who rose to become queen of the Franks and later banned the slave trade.

The Quran twice calls unbelievers cattle? Maybe a verse about germ theory of disease which would save tens of thousands of lives would be better than a repetition of a cattle insult. Or like when the Quran says in 3:42 **"**Allah has chosen you, purified you, and chosen you" couldn't the second chosen have been dropped? In Surah 55 it just keeps repeating. "Then which of your Lord's favours will you both deny?" It says it 31 times. Or when it says three times that in heaven that there will be fruit that would be easily grasped.[79]

Scholars estimate that roughly **23–53%** of the Quran is formulaic repetition (reused phrases/stock formulas), based on a computerized oral-formulaic analysis of the text.[80] (Why do God's words have the marks of oral tradition?)

If you think this is merely subjective and worthless as evidence, what if the Quran just said the word Muhammad a million times and that's it? Or what if it just said the word banana one million times in the last chapter of the Quran? Wouldn't that count as evidence that this was not from God?

**48) Biblical Confusions**

The Quran confuses Moses & Aaron's sister Miriam with Jesus' mother Mary. Surah Maryam 19:28 calls Jesus' mother "*sister of Aaron*," and Surah At-Taḥrīm 66:12 labels her "*daughter of ʿImrān*."Yet Aaron and his father Amram (ʿImrān) lived[81] around 1,300 years before Mary. Early Jews in Medina reportedly mocked this genealogical mix-up.[82] If Muslims argue that these titles are merely honorifics, it's striking that, out of the entire range of possible honorific comparisons for Mary, the ones used just happen to resemble a Mary/Miriam confusion.

The Quran seems to treat Pharoah as a name of a person and not a title.

The Quran blames a "Samaritan" (*al-Samirī*) for the golden calf incident (20:85–95), but Samaritans didn't exist until centuries after when Moses purportedly lived. That's a major historical anachronism. It's most likely an error from someone mishearing Jewish traditions.[83]

The Quran also says, "The Jews and Christians each claim that none will enter Paradise except those of their own faith." But Jews do not think that.

Also Quranic versions of Bible stories tend to be shorter and simpler. This is exactly what

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[79] I'd think there are more important stuff than what age and color of cows are best to sacrifice.

[80] https://www.academia.edu/9490706/Retelling_the_Tale_A_Computerised_Oral_Formulaic_Analysis_of_the_Qur_an

[81] If they lived

[82] In *Tafsīr* al-Ṭabarī on 19:28: Kaʿb (the Yemenite Jewish convert) tells ʿĀisha, *"'Sister of Aaron' is not the Aaron of Moses."* ʿĀisha retorts, *"You lie!"* Kaʿb cites the 600-year gap; she falls silent

[83] The Quran accuses Jews of worshipping rabbis which is inaccurate about Jewish practice. Sarah At-Tawbah (9:31)

you'd expect if someone was half-remembering them. It's not what you'd expect if God (who knows the millimeter length of the eyelashes of everyone on Earth) was actually telling you the truth. If you asked me to summarize the movie the Godfather from memory, I'd do a decently good job, but I'd simplify things, shorten things, and mix stuff up. This is exactly what the Quran looks like.

**49) Ezra**

The Quran claims Jews think Ezra is the son of God which is false. (Surah At-Tawbah 9:30)[84]

**50) Jesus vs. Muhammad**

It's strange to think that the peaceful ascetic who died telling people to love is not the main character of the religion, but the main character of the religion is the guy who sought women and secular power.

It's also strange that in the Quran, Jesus is born of a virgin, to a woman chosen above all others (3:42), and raised alive to heaven, while Muhammad has an ordinary birth and dies an ordinary death. Strange that the "greater" prophet, the centerpiece of the religion, has the less miraculous entrance and exit and powers.[85] Jesus is so miraculous in the Quran he even talked as a baby. (19:29)[86]

**51) Pairs**

Surah Adh-Dhariyat 51:49 says,"And of everything We have created pairs: That ye may receive instruction"

False, not everything exists in pairs. There's only one universe, one Earth, one Muhammad. There are hermaphroditic (Leeches) and asexual reproducing species (Bdelloid rotifers). If the Quran meant "most things," it could have used the Arabic word muʿẓam (معظم)—but it didn't.

Surah Ar-Ra'd 13:3 says Allah "created fruits[87] of every kind in pairs." But most fruiting plants

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[84] With the Ezra thing it's so absurd to think that it's referring to a small subset of Jews.
If I say,
"Dogs have four legs and cats have retractable claws."
That makes sense to say. It doesn't make sense to say,
"Dogs have four legs and cats are named Jeff."
Some cats are named Jeff but only a lunatic would structure a sentence that way.
Also EVEN IF it did refer to a subset, there's no evidence such subset exists.

Also, the Quran refers to "some jews" in other parts of the Quran so it's not against talking about subsets.

[85] Surah 3:42 Allah chooses and purifies Mary above all the women of the worlds
[86] Some views in Islam are that Allah purposely deceived people to believe Jesus was crucified. Why would God do that? Deceive a people and indirectly cause Christianity when it's not the correct faith?
[87] الثَّمَرَاتِ *l-thamarāti*

are hermaphrodites, not male and female. If this doesn't work as a falsification, what would falsify the claim that everything comes in pairs?

**52) Saltwater/Freshwater**

The Quran says in 25:53 "And He is the One Who merges the two bodies of water: one fresh and palatable and the other salty and bitter, placing between them a barrier they cannot cross."

Salt water and freshwater mix all the time. Brackish water exists. Brackish water has its own Wikipedia page. Errors like this falsify the Quran.

If this doesn't work as a falsification, what would falsify the claim that salt water and fresh water have barriers between them that they cannot cross?

**53) Uncle Abu Lahab**

Surah Al-Masad (111) is a whole surah dedicated to shit talking Muhammad's uncle, Abu Lahab. You think this is divine?

*May the hands of Abu Lahab be ruined, and ruined is he!*
*His wealth will not avail him or that which he gained!*
*He will enter to burn in a Fire of flame!*
*And his wife as well - the carrier of firewood!*
*Around her neck is a rope of twisted fiber!*

It doesn't even tell you what Abu Lahab did! So it can't be for moral instruction. It's arguably blasphemy to think God would write something that sounds like Hulk Hogan talking smack in a WWE promo.[88][89][90]

Do you actually think God would spend an entire chapter of his final testament to mankind talking shit to one man and not explain what he did? [91]

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[88] Surah Al-Masad (111) as Hulk Hogan Promo
https://docs.google.com/document/d/16whL9k_qFP_de9-RSPlrsqqed4fOS3ZWES-Q-qpidBw/edit?tab=t.0

Also his name Abu Lahab can be translated as Flame Daddy which further adds to the WWE vibes.

[89] "He is my nephew. I know him better than any of you. He is a liar" - commonly attributed to Abu Lahab

[90] **"**Muslims say this is miraculous because Abu Lahab could've disproven Islam by converting. But he hated Muhammad. Why would he join the movement he openly despised? Why is that an impressive prediction? And even if he *had* converted, Muslims could easily claim he was lying. Also, Muslims can go to hell so converting wouldn't have necessarily changed the prophecy of him going to hell.

[91] Muslims sometimes try to spin this as a "miracle prophecy," saying it predicted Abu Lahab would never convert. But even if he had converted, that wouldn't falsify the Quran's claim—since by Islamic doctrine

**54**) **Bragging**
Why does the Quran brag about how awesome it is? (e.g., 39:23, 56:77–80, 12:3)
Why not just be awesome. If you are awesome you shouldn't need to tell people you are awesome. Does Shakespeare say, "this is the best sonnet ever" during the sonnet?

And why does Allah brag about being able to kill everyone and replace them? Is that something a merciful and just being would brag about? (4:133)

**55) Names**
Several of Allah's classic 99 names describe traits that are villainous. Which is hilarious on its own.

- *Al-Mu'akhkhir* — The Delayer
- *Al-Mānisʿ* — The Withholder
- *Al-Khāfiḍ* — The Degrader
- *Al-Mudhill* — The Dishonourer
- *Al-Jabbār* — The Compeller
- *Aḍ-Ḍārr* — The Distresser
- *Al-Muntaqim* — The Retaliator
- *Al-Mumīt* — The Creator of Death

But they also literally contradict other of his names like *Ar-Raʾūf* (The Most Kind) and *Al-Wadūd* (The Most Loving).

**56) Sealed Hearts**

Surah Al-Baqarah 2:7 says "*Allah has sealed their hearts and their hearing, and their sight is covered. They will suffer a tremendous punishment.*"

So:

1. There are unbelievers.
2. Allah seals the hearts and eyes of the unbelievers so they remain unbelievers.
3. Upon death Allah then punishes the unbelievers for remaining unbelievers.

Allah could just have easily left the heart and eyes unsealed so that unbelievers can eventually believe but Allah does the opposite.

**57) Peaceful Verses Get Cancelled**

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Muslims still go to hell if God wills it. There was no risk of falsification here. It's just an empty boast dressed up as divine foreknowledge.

Classical abrogation doctrine says later verses override earlier ones, so many scholars take the militant Medinan "sword verses" (like 9:5, 9:29) to cancel or restrict the earlier Meccan verses about "no compulsion in religion" and "to you your religion, to me mine." That means the final form of the Quran's ethics, on these readings, is more warlike than the early phase— which is both unethical, and separately exactly what you'd expect from a human political leader who softens the message when weak and hardens it when strong, not from a maximally wise God giving one clear, timeless moral law.

**58) Hell in the Quran is Uncreative.**
Why is hell described as having pus, fire, skin flaying, and boiling water. This is the stuff a 7th century man could think of. You'd think an all good God wouldn't constantly threaten people to believe because that's cruel and bizarre. I wouldn't say, "*If you don't believe my math proof, I'll kick your dog*." That would be insane. But *if* you were going to threaten people, why use threats that are sort of uncreative and what a 7th century mind could generate? God's threats could be any of billions of options,  but it happens to be what they could think of? What a coincidence.

**59) The Ramadan Pole Problem**

The Quran commands Muslims to fast from dawn to sunset during the month of Ramadan.

> "And eat and drink until the white thread of dawn becomes distinct to you from the black thread [of night]. Then complete the fast until the night."
> — Surah Al-Baqarah 2:187

This rule assumes that you can do this without dying. Yet near the poles, daylight or night can last for months. For instance, in northern Norway or Antarctica, there may be continuous daylight during Ramadan, meaning fasting "until night" would require not eating or drinking for months.

A being with full knowledge of Earth's geography would have foreseen this problem. The most plausible explanation is that the verse reflects a 7th century Arabian human's understanding of the world.

**60) Bad Reasoning in the Quran**
Distinct from contradictions or factual errors about the world is errors in reasoning. God shouldn't make illegitimate inferences.

**4:82** – "If it were from any other than Allah, they would have found many discrepancies in it."
→ Irrational: Plenty of books not from God—short novels, instruction manuals, and autobiographies—are entirely free of discrepancies. If the Quran was made up by Muhammad there's no reason why it would necessarily have to have a discrepancy in it.

**62:6** – "Say, O Jews, if you claim to be Allah's chosen people, then wish for death if you are truthful."
→ Irrational: Claiming divine favor doesn't imply a wish for death; suicide is forbidden in Judaism and instinctively feared by all humans.

**53:10 "**Then Allah revealed to His servant what He revealed ˹through Gabriel. The Prophet's heart did not doubt what he saw. How can you O pagans then dispute with him regarding what he saw?"
→ Irrational: The Pagans have different evidence than Muhammad had. They have different evidence levels so it's very easy to understand and unsurprising that they would have different levels of confidence.[92]

**6:101** "How could He have children when He has no mate?"
→ Irrational: There are ways to create children without mates. Parthenogenesis exists. Asexual reproduction exists. Omnipotent beings can create sons without mates.[93]

**3:65** "O People of the Book! Why do you argue about Abraham, while the Torah and the Gospel were not revealed until long after him?"
→ Irrational: if The Bible is unreliable on Abraham because the Bible is written after Abraham then so is Quran because it is also written after Abraham.

Then there's the aforementioned "make a surah like it" mistake where God is irrationally saying a subjective test is good evidence of divinity.

## 61) False prophecy

Muhammad told a young boy the world would end when he's somewhat old. (Sahih Muslim 2953b)

This is just an obviously false prophecy which is sufficient on its own to falsify traditionalist literalist Islam.[94]

A man said, "*When would the Last Hour come*?
Muhammad said, "*If this boy lives he would not grow very old till the Last Hour would come to*

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**53:21** Do you prefer to have sons while ˹you attribute˺ to [Allah] daughters?
→ Irrational: God could just have different preferences than you.

There's also the thing where the quran says bird flight is evidence of god and that's an error in reasoning.

93 **4:78** So what is the matter with these people?
→ Is this what an omniscient being would say?

94 The Qur'an issues a **conditional** warning: if Muhammad had fabricated revelation, **"We would cut his aorta (life-artery)"** (Q 69:44–46). Multiple classical tafsīrs gloss *al-watīn* as the main heart artery/life-vein.
In a late illness, ʿĀʾisha reports Muhammad said: **"I still feel the pain from the food I ate at Khaybar, and at this time I feel as if my aorta is being cut from that poison."** (Bukhārī 4428).

*you*."

(The Qur'an uses as-Sāʿa (ٱلسَّاعَة, "the Hour") dozens of times (over 40 occurrences). In all or nearly all instances, it refers to the Day of Judgment — the cosmic end.)

As an aside, the Quran also says, *"The Hour has drawn near." (Qur'an 54:1)* But the end of the world didn't happen for 1400ish years which is not near.

Another false prophecy: "Allah's Messenger said, "*This matter (caliphate) will remain with the Quraysh even if only two of them were still existing."* Sahih al-Bukhari 7140[95]

**62) Apostasy**
In classical Sunni fiqh, all four Sunni madhhabs treat apostasy as a capital crime. Huge numbers of Muslims (many millions) believe the death penalty is warranted for apostasy.

This is cult-like behavior. (Many cults will kill you for leaving.)

Think about what such a policy does for intellectual inquiry. It makes people scared to explore what's true because if they come to the conclusion Islam is false, they could die. So it stops people asking questions. Such a policy is deeply incompatible with any commitment to being truth-oriented.

It's not plausible divine love and wisdom is the source of cult-like behavior.

**63) Testing Issues**

**A)** Why would God test us? The reason humans test each other is that the test-giver doesn't know what's in the mind of the test-taker. (My math teacher doesn't know how much math I know, so uses a test to find out.) But God knows what's in our minds and hearts and what we will do. He doesn't benefit from testing us.

God could just *only* create people who **freely** choose the Good and put them into heaven. Does he enjoy creating creatures that he knows he will torture for trillions of years?

**B)** Also, many Muslims believe that before we were born we humans chose to be given this test. But given that according to Islamic theology, non-Muslims are going to hell. (*And there are many more non-Muslims than Muslims*. 6 billion to 2 billion) (*And not even all Muslims are going to heaven*.) It's totally irrational to take a test where it's more likely than not that I will be tortured infinitely, and I would never agree to that.

**64) Creation issues**

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[95] https://sunnah.com/riyadussalihin:1822 Hadith saying Mountain of gold under Euphrates. Where is this mountain?

Why did Allah create humanity at all? When God was alone, reality was already perfect. Why would he choose to create imperfection? [96]

**65**) **Guidance**
Why did God's revelation fail with Christians and Jews? Why would an omniscient being need multiple "attempts" at guidance?

**66**) **Four Tough Questions**

1) Is it more likely that infinite hell is a scare tactic by humans or the creation of the most merciful?
*We know humans lie to manipulate all the time, but we don't know if merciful beings torture people for quadrillions of years.*

2) Is it more likely that abrogation is the result of humans changing their laws to fit the situation or the result of an omniscient being outside of time changing his eternal law?
*We know humans change their minds about stuff, but with omniscient beings outside of time we have no reason to think they could or would do that.*

3) Is it more likely that punishments like wife beating, crucifixion, and cutting off feet are made by ancient humans writing down their norms or the result of the most merciful being giving dictates?
*We know primitive humans were violent and cruel and it's expected they will be. It's not expected that the most merciful being would be.*

4) Do the Quran's moral norms (like slavery and polygyny, corporal punishments, asymmetrical gender norms) being similar to the norms of the day more likely by the fact that humans are writing down their norms or an unfathomable coincidence where people at that time happened to coincidentally agree with the creator of the universe?
*(If it's humans writing down norms there's no extreme coincidence to be explained.)*

**67) Situatedness**
The Quran exhibits the precise linguistic profile of 7th-century Hijazi Arabic and references contemporary political events (like the Byzantine-Sasanian wars and local tribal disputes), it engages with religious debates current in Late Antiquity (such as Miaphysite vs. Dyophysite Christology, Jewish law), and follows literary forms (rhymed prose, saj') common to Arabian oratory of that milieu. It even has linguistic/grammatical features common to that time and place.[97] From a historical standpoint, this is exactly what "originating from a human in a

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[96] If God needs nothing, why is he demanding you worship? It's not just for our own sake because he tortures us if we don't. So it's not mere pragmatic advice.
[97] https://docs.google.com/document/d/14AcuG_9wN63zAKeaaIC4VZh2h5vQh6sxZDaKoIA64f4/edit?usp=sharing

specific human context" looks like. To posit divine authorship requires layering on extra assumptions that aren't needed to explain the data.

If you found a document written in very specific 1920s New York slang (callings things the “cats pajamas”), referencing Prohibition and Warren G. Harding, using the comedic rhythms and jokes common in vaudeville, you wouldn’t need to posit “a timeless supernatural author who chose 1920’s NYC slang for mysterious reasons. You’d just say: it’s from that milieu.[98]

**68) Selective-Charity Double Standard**

The interpretive flexibilities and metaphorical re-definitions that literalist Muslims might deploy to rescue Quranic difficulties are precisely the maneuvers they would dismiss if Christians defended the Gospels, Hindus justified the Vedas, or Mormons excused the Book of Mormon. If the same elastic toolkit were granted to every scripture, any text could be declared flawless.[99]

**69) Actually Imagine a Perfect Book**

Imagine a book that you could read both forwards and backwards. As in, the letters in all the words just so happen to be arranged such that the book could be meaningfully read both ways with different messages. That alone would be insane. But then also the chapter titles formed an acrostic and the whole book rhymed.

Oh and imagine this book contained so much scientific and mathematical knowledge that it would make scientists and mathematicians irrelevant for millennia.
Oh and imagine this book was so beautifully written that human beings 99% of the time cried and converted upon reading it.

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[98] **Byzantine–Sasanian wars:** Q 30:2–4 (“Romans” defeated → later victory). Quran.com+1

**Local tribal conflicts:** Q 59:2 (expulsion of “People of the Book” — tied in tafsīr to Banū al-Naḍīr). Quran.com+2Quran.com+2 Also Q 3:123 (Badr). Quran.com

**Christology in the Late Antique debate-zone:** Qur’an attacks “Trinity/Three” and related claims: Q 4:171; Q 5:72–73; Q 5:116. Quran.com+3Quran.com+3Quran.com+3 (Miaphysite = “one-nature” Christology; Dyophysite = “two natures”/Chalcedonian.) Encyclopedia Britannica+1

**Jewish law / Torah legal discourse:** Q 5:43–47 (Torah judgment; prophets/rabbis judging by it) + Q 5:45 (“eye for eye…”) + Jewish-specific prohibitions Q 4:160; Q 6:146. Quran.com+4Quran.com+4Quran.com+4 (For the “Qur’an as Late Antique legal culture” framing: Zellentin.) library.oapen.org

[99] And If you want to read secret esoteric meanings into the Quran where cutting off someone’s foot and Muhammad getting extra wives means something mystical and profound, then why not read secret esoteric meanings into literally any text? Like this cookbook. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KeI_SakcJbebe4xvMSXFcjqpOfrCbbovaBTlZsqjyNA/edit?tab=t.0

Imagine a book that not only gave fantastic advice on current issues, with all their nuances and sub-nuances, but gave detailed advice about situations that would not occur for thousands of years.
Oh and it gave detailed advice about how to interpret it, so there would be literally no feuds about the correct way to interpret it.
An infinitely intelligent God could definitely write such a book.
So why would he give us... the Quran? [100]

*(If your response to this is, "Oh, a limited mind could never comprehend what an infinite mind would create," then you are committed to believing that if the Quran consisted of hundreds of pages saying, "I, Lord Poopy Butt, commandeth you to rub poop on your faces, throw poop at each other, roll around in poop, and make poop hats..." you couldn't say, "I don't think an infinite mind would create that..." Instead, you'd have to say, "A limited being like me could never know what an infinite mind might do.")*

**P.S) Many of these Objections are Independent of Each Other**
Addressing one argument does not resolve the others. Each independent criticism stands alone and reduces the probability and plausibility of literalist interpretations of Islam. Since the claim is that the Quran is perfect, demonstrating even a *single* flaw is sufficient to falsify the assertion.

We have two competing hypotheses:

*1) God gave Muhammad the Quran*

*2) Muhammad made it up*

Given the amount of independent flaws we have found, "Muhammad made it up" is overwhelmingly the preferred hypothesis.

(*Especially given the low prior probability we started with.)*

**P.P.S*)* Humanity**
Even in the *purely hypothetical* world where the Quran had zero internal flaws, you still

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[100] And if the book isn't as perfect as would be ideal, it really hurts that it's the *final* revelation. Like it's easier to accept an imperfect book if it's God nudging us in the right direction, and future instruction will come. But if it's the final book the imperfection will get locked in.

Here's some responses to common responses to this text:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1grT9njJd40WV1pv-V2JVxJCtF738T1irgGkakpjrcCY/edit?usp=sharing

There was an Arabian prophet named Musaylima who is considered a false prophet by Muslims. He prohibited circumcision, promoted gender equality, allowed premarital sex, banned polygamy and cousin marriage, declared slaves free upon conversion, and denied the existence of Satan.

shouldn’t believe it’s from God, because it looks overwhelmingly like the work of a 7th-century Arabian man, not a timeless deity:

- A) Convenient revelations that grant Muhammad special privileges (like extra wives that you cannot marry after he dies)
- B) Content narrowly focused on Arabia (camels, yes; kangaroos, no)
- C) No real future knowledge (nothing about algebra, electricity, or the internet)
- D) Constant insults and threats aimed at nonbelievers
- E) A heaven that reads like a tribal chief’s fantasy (pretty women, wine, servants)
- F) Morality that mirrors the era’s norms (including slavery)
- G) A book that won’t stop bragging about itself
- H) No detailed, nontrivial scientific information
- I) Borrowed and reworked stories (like Dhul Qarnayn)

It’s just too human.

**In summary**:

*Sometimes showing a claim to be false is like killing an ant with a bazooka.*

We've found logical contradictions, scientific errors, aesthetic failures, self-serving motives, mathematical mistakes, factual blunders, moral atrocities, illogical inferences, and signs of both ineptitude and pettiness. We've seen useless content, plagiarism, historical anachronisms, failed tests, probabilistic implausibility, character flaws, philosophical issues, false prophecies, unreliable transmission, childishness, boringness, incoherent structure, cultural narrowness, and ambiguity. At this point, it's hard to imagine in principle what kind of flaw a text could have that this one doesn't. And you’re telling me this is the perfect word of God?

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[101] Wouldn't it be nice if the Quran included all this:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kdtr72ALDkpkVP1Myv3maMH48_F4TVk5e4mk3AvypRo/edit?tab=t.0

[102] **Some "Quranic Miracle" Claims — and Why They are Weak and Fail**
**An Expanding Universe — 51:47**

- **Claim:** "We built the heaven with power, and We are [its] expander" predicts cosmic expansion.
- **Why it fails:** *Lammūsiʿūn* in classical Arabic = "possessors of vast power/abundance," not "expanding spacetime." Lane's Lexicon confirms "make ample/broaden." Early tafsīr (Ṭabarī, etc.) never mention cosmology; the "expanding universe" gloss is a 20th-century retrofit.

Pickthall (1930): We have built the heaven with might, and We it is Who make the vast extent (thereof).
Yusuf Ali (1934): With power and skill did We construct the Firmament: for it is We Who create the vastness of pace.
Shakir (1982): And the heaven, We raised it high with power, and most surely We are the makers of things ample.
Mohsin Khan (1977): With power did We construct the heaven. Verily, We are Able to extend the vastness of space thereof.
Arberry (1955): And heaven -- We built it with might, and We extend it wide.

**The "Big Bang" — 21:30**

- **Claim:** "The heavens and the earth were a joined entity, then We split them" = the Big Bang.
- **Why it fails:** Early exegetes (Ibn ʿAbbās, Ṭabarī, Ibn Kathīr) read it as: sky closed (no rain), earth closed (no plants), then God opened them (rain, crops). It mirrors ancient Near Eastern "sky–earth separation" myths. The Big Bang reading was invented centuries later.

**Iron "Sent Down" — 57:25**

- **Claim:** "We sent down iron" = meteorites; extraterrestrial origin only recently discovered.
- **Why it fails:** *Anzalnā* ("sent down") is routine idiom for bestowal—cf. "We sent down clothing" (7:26). The verse means God provided iron's usefulness, not that its atoms came from space. And pre-modern people already knew of meteorites (e.g., Egyptian meteorite knives).

**Female Worker Bees — 16:68–69**

- **Claim:** Feminine verbs prove the Qur'an knew worker bees are female.
- **Why it fails:** In Arabic, all non-human plurals take feminine singular by default.

*"The Romans have been defeated in the nearby land. But they, after their defeat, will overcome. Within a few years." — Surah al-Rum 30:2–4  Oh Rome will lose a battle and win a battle within a decade? Woah!?*

*The "predicting expanding universe miracles" is based on a plausibly tendentious reading. Many translators translate it with things like, And the heaven, We raised it high with power, and most surely We are the makers of things ample."*

*Or when Muslims say, He couldn't know pain receptors are in skin in the replenish skin verses. But it's very intuitive that skin would be where you feel stuff. When someone touches skin of your arm you feel it there.*

[103] I know this document is about literalist Islam, but it also makes look ridiculous the idea that God—the powerful and intelligent being who sculpted the universe, had *anything* to do with the Quran. The it's a metaphor defense doesn't actually defend it from most of these critiques.

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Even granting the most generous hermeneutic license—that every ostensibly literal claim in the Qur'an is in fact metaphorical—the text remains indefensible as the perfect, maximally clear, and morally coherent revelation of an omniscient, benevolent deity. Metaphor cannot resolve mathematical impossibilities (e.g., inheritance shares summing to 112.5%), logical contradictions (e.g., abrogation vs. divine immutability), moral atrocities (e.g., endorsing marital violence or child marriage), structural incoherence (e.g., non-chronological, length-based surah ordering), prophetic failures (e.g., false eschatological predictions), or the profound epistemic injustice of geographically contingent salvation. Nor does it excuse the text's parochial moral horizon, its elite non-convergence among history's greatest minds, its reliance on demonstrably human transmission mechanisms (e.g., variant qira'at, Uthmanic standardization), or its baffling omission of guidance on existential modern challenges while fixating on seventh-century tribal etiquette. A truly divine communication, especially one claiming finality and universal clarity, would transcend such flaws—not embed them so deeply that only post hoc interpretive gymnastics can pretend they were never meant to be taken seriously in the first place.

Early Islam looks like it *crystallizes over decades* in public material culture If Islam (as a fully formed confession) dropped complete in 610–632, you might expect the earliest state inscriptions/coinage to consistently broadcast the full "Islam package." But historians of early Islamic epigraphy/numismatics note that public formulas vary and develop, and explicit confessional phrasing becomes clearer later in the 7th century.
That doesn't *disprove* Islam by itself, but it fits "human religious movement solidifying" better than "timeless, fully specified system delivered once."

**Atheism just has a lot going for it:**
Problem of evil: a world with vast, seemingly gratuitous suffering is hard to reconcile with an all-good, all-powerful God.

Divine hiddenness: if God wants a relationship, pervasive reasonable nonbelief is unexpected.

Low priors: classical theism is a narrow corner of the "mind-first" hypothesis space, so its prior probability is low absent strong evidence.

Mass extinctions: Earth's deep history of repeated, indiscriminate planetwide die-offs fits blind processes better than providential design.

Divine complexity: the God hypothesis posits a being with many distinct knowledge items, goals, and powers—penalized by parsimony compared with simpler natural laws. If humans are complex and god has goal to make us his mind gets that complexity.

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Erosion of superstition: centuries-long trend of natural explanations replacing supernatural ones; induction suggests that will continue.

Mind–brain dependence: every mind we observe is tied to a brain; induction favors mental states supervening on physical brains, not immaterial minds.

Prayer doesn't work statistically
No uniquely divine information: purported revelations haven't delivered demonstrably true, otherwise unknowable content.

There are over 10,000 religions in the world, so before you even look at the evidence, the prior probability that Islam in particular is the uniquely correct one is already tiny. On top of that, the Quran doesn't just make one claim; it makes thousands. A conjunction of thousands of claims is, by basic probability, far less likely than a simple hypothesis. So Islam starts with an extremely low probability before you even open the book.

Then you actually read it, and you find things like:

- Stars described as lamps used to pelt devils
- Mountains presented as stabilizers to keep the earth from shaking
- The claim that Jews think Ezra is the son of God
- Commands to cut off hands and feet "on opposite sides" in some cases
- A verse telling people not to come too early to Muhammad's house for dinner because he's shy—and this is somehow eternal revelation
- Both the idea that God's word cannot be changed and the doctrine of abrogation, where verses are effectively changed
- Gog and Magog supposedly trapped behind some kind of barrier between mountains
- Servants in heaven waiting on the saved forever
- The earth and ants and hell and lightning chatting.
- A straightforward math error in inheritance rules
- Claim that every fruit comes in pairs which is false.
- Irrational inferences like that God would need a mate to create a son. (He's omnipotent.)
- Borrowed and reworked legends like the Dhul Qarnayn story
- Claims that salt water and fresh water don't mix when they do.
- Ordering contradictions of when things were created.

You look at this and think: this doesn't remotely overcome the already overwhelming prior against it being divine.

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And even in a purely hypothetical world where the Quran had zero internal flaws, you still shouldn't conclude it's from God, because it looks exactly like the product of a 7th-century Arabian man, not a timeless, all-knowing deity:
A) Convenient revelations granting Muhammad special privileges (extra wives no one else can marry after him, unique exemptions, etc.)
B) Content tightly focused on a narrow region (camels and caravans, but no kangaroos, no Americas)
C) No genuine future knowledge (nothing about algebra, electricity, microbiology, or the internet)
D) Constant insults, curses, and threats aimed at doubters and nonbelievers
E) A heaven that reads like a tribal chieftain's fantasy: big-bosomed women, flowing wine, jewelry, servants lol
F) Moral norms that simply mirror the time and place (including slavery and concubinage)
G) A text that repeatedly brags about itself and insists on its own greatness
H) No detailed, nontrivial scientific information that couldn't have been produced by its milieu
I) Grammatical forms of the Quran's time and place finding their way in the Quran
J) Borrowed and adapted stories (including the Dhul Qarnayn legend and other earlier motifs)
Given all this it's way more likely a human made the Quran rather than God.

## Let's look at the core comparison

1) God gave Muhammad the Quran

2) Muhammad (and his milieu) produced the Quran

Now ask: *which hypothesis better predicts the total evidence*?
What hypothesis (2) predicts really well?
A human author in 7th-century Arabia would plausibly produce a text that:

- reflects local culture, norms, animals, politics
- revises itself over ~20 years as circumstances change (abrogation)
- contains inconsistencies, ambiguity, and editorial seams
- uses threats, insults, loyalty enforcement
- grants special privileges to the leader
- borrows and reshapes existing myths and stories
- shows stylistic evolution over time
- needs later scholars to fix, harmonize, and reinterpret
- relies on oral transmission with variance
- has no knowledge beyond the horizon of its era
- inspires civil conflict after the leader's death
- motivates conquest, power consolidation, and legal rigidity
- is defended later by increasingly sophisticated apologetics

No coincidences required.  No auxiliary assumptions stacked on top.

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What hypothesis (1) has to assume. To keep “divine authorship” afloat, you need many extra commitments:

- God intentionally chose ambiguity while claiming clarity
- God used error-prone oral transmission for mandatory guidance
- God revised “perfect” rules, then stopped revising forever
- God allowed false scientific/world models as pedagogy
- God used threats, insults, and dehumanization as moral teaching
- God embedded era-specific norms (slavery, polygyny) on purpose
- God hid decisive evidence despite wanting certainty and claiming he has given enough evidence
- God authored text that looks extremely human in style and content
- God chose a prophet whose incentives look indistinguishable from cult leaders
- God punished disbelief eternally while sealing hearts
- God made falsifiability challenges that reduce to aesthetics
- God preserved the text via political burnings and allowed variant readings

Each of these is *logically possible*.
But together?
They’re a Rube Goldberg machine of apologetics:

So basically:
1) low starting probability
2) Then internal contradictions, scientific errors, and failures of reasoning
3) Looks extremely extremely human